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PURITAN  
LOVE  
LETTERS



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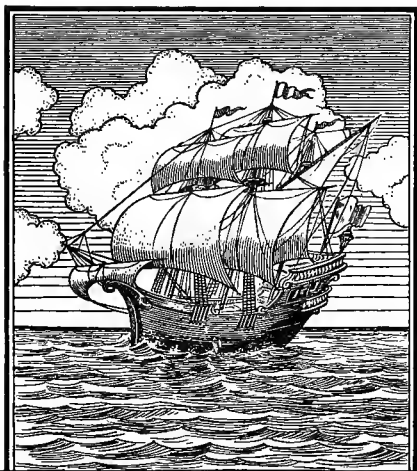
Some old Puritan love-letters—



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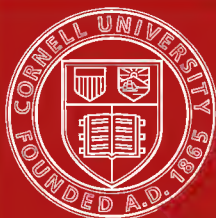
William E. Griffis.

with warm regard,

From Joseph H. Tuichell

Hartford, Conn.

May 20. 1909



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SOME OLD PURITAN  
LOVE-LETTERS—

JOHN AND MARGARET  
WINTHROP—1618—1638

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*Edited by*

JOSEPH HOPKINS TWICHELL

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*New York . . Dodd, Mead  
and Company . . . 1894*

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JOHN WILSON AND SON, CAMBRIDGE, U.S.A.

TO  
MARGARET TYNDAL WINTHROP,  
OF BOSTON,

A DESCENDANT IN THE EIGHTH GENERATION OF GOVERNOR  
JOHN WINTHROP OF MASSACHUSETTS,

*This volume is inscribed,*

*In memory of the name she is privileged to bear, which will  
ever be associated with all that constitutes the grace of*

CHRISTIAN WOMANHOOD.



## INTRODUCTION.

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JOHN WINTHROP, the first Governor of Massachusetts, born Jan. 22, 1588, was a native of Suffolk, England. He was lord of Groton Manor in that county, and a lawyer by profession. As foremost leader of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, he came, in the summer of 1630, to New England, where, after nineteen years of consecrated devotion to the task of planting a new state on new soil, he died, worn out with cares and labours, at Boston, March 26, 1649, in his sixty-second year. Margaret Tyndal, the daughter of Sir John Tyndal, of Essex, was his third wife. They were married in 1618. She joined him in New England the year after his arrival, and was ever his good angel of courage and cheer in all the trials

he there sustained, till her death, June 14, 1647, at the age of fifty-six.

She was the mother of four of his eight children who reached maturity.

The extant correspondence of this husband and wife is chiefly a memorial of their life in England; by far the greater part of it antedating their emigration. It was not a leisurely correspondence, but was penned in the intervals of pressing household and professional duties. Its most common occasion was Winthrop's absence from home in London, whither he regularly went on his legal business. There was no mail between Groton and London in those days. As a rule, each wrote when there was a chance to send, and usually in more or less haste. Mrs. Winthrop's letters are infrequently dated, and the place of many of them has to be assigned by conjecture. Except, indeed, in the case of Winthrop's two copious and elaborate ante-nuptial efforts, the correspondence throughout shows, on neither side, the marks of particular care. It is not, then, a



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monument of the epistolary art. It is bare of literary reference. It contains only casual mention of contemporary public events. It is simply a correspondence of domesticity and affection in the atmosphere of religion. As such it is, by those familiar with it, esteemed one of the most pleasing relics in its kind, of the Puritan age.

The earliest publication of any portion of it was in 1825, when twenty-seven letters were printed in the appendix to the first volume of Governor Winthrop's Journal (or History of New England), edited by the distinguished colonial antiquarian, James Savage. It was subsequently incorporated entire in the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop's "Life and Letters of John Winthrop," the first volume of which appeared in 1864, and the second in 1867.

For the following memorandum recapitulating the circumstances of the preservation through two hundred years of the celebrated Winthrop Papers, including this correspondence, readers and the editor are indebted to

Robert C. Winthrop, Jr., of Boston, who most kindly consented to its insertion here, though it had not originally been designed for such use.

Major-General Wait Winthrop, chief-justice, of Massachusetts, died in Boston in 1717, aged seventy-five, leaving a mass of papers consisting not merely of his own correspondence, but also much of the correspondence of his elder brother, Governor Fitz-John Winthrop; of his father, Governor John Winthrop the younger; and of his grandfather, Governor John Winthrop the elder; together with earlier family papers brought from England at the foundation of the Massachusetts Colony.

Wait Winthrop had inherited landed property in both Massachusetts and Connecticut, and besides his house in Boston had one in New London, where at the time of his death his only son, generally distinguished as "John Winthrop, F.R.S.," had been for some years residing in order to improve his father's estate in that neighbourhood. The said John Winthrop, F.R.S., then decided to content himself with occasional visits to Boston, and to make his home at New London, whither he removed most of his father's movables, including the MSS. above mentioned; and though he subsequently went to England and resided

there some twenty years, he did not break up his New London establishment, and the papers were not disturbed. It is clear, however, that even at that period the collection was a fragmentary one, as in one of his common-place books John Winthrop, F.R.S., mentions that many papers of his grandfather and great-grandfather had disappeared, and that some had long before been accidentally burned.

John Winthrop, F.R.S., died in England in 1747. The papers then passed to his elder son, John Still Winthrop, and were long preserved in a large house built by him, and still standing at the head of Winthrop's Cove, New London, where in 1770 Governor Jonathan Trumbull was allowed to make a partial examination of a portion of those relating to Connecticut history, to take away some originals, and to make copies of others. (Governor Trumbull's papers eventually came into the possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and in Vol. IX. of the Fifth Series of that Society's Collections are printed selections from the papers then obtained by him.)

John Still Winthrop died at New London in 1776, leaving a very numerous family. The papers first passed to his eldest son, John, who graduated at Harvard in 1770, but died unmarried in 1780. They then became the property of his next brother,

Francis Bayard Winthrop, a merchant of New York, who eventually sold the New London house, retaining as a summer residence the neighbouring property of Fisher's Island. He owned the papers thirty-seven years, in the course of which time he caused them to be partially examined and classified, retaining the larger portion in his own possession, but giving away many to his younger brother, Hon. Thomas Lindall Winthrop, of Boston; others to his second son, Francis Bayard Winthrop, Jr., of New Haven; and a few to various relatives.

Francis Bayard Winthrop (senior) died in New York in 1817. In the division of his movables, his family papers of the colonial and provincial periods were assigned to his third son, William Henry Winthrop, who also inherited Fisher's Island and resided chiefly in New London. He was a man of retired habits and poor health, who became annoyed by repeated requests for permission to examine the MSS., and who ended by refusing access to them even to members of his own family. As he owned them forty-three years, their existence was gradually forgotten save by a few persons, among whom was Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, of Boston, who contemplated writing a life of Governor John Winthrop, and was extremely anxious to obtain copies of any MSS. in possession of his cousin in New London which might relate

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to this subject. Mr. William Henry Winthrop died in 1860; and by invitation of his sons Hon. Robert C. Winthrop went to New London to consult with them as to the most appropriate disposition of the MSS., the heirs being entirely willing they should be used for the benefit of students of New England history. Mr. Winthrop was dismayed to find the collection not merely in great disorder, but much injured by damp and even mice. Some valuable letters crumbled to pieces on being opened, and the greatest caution had to be observed in making even a cursory and partial examination. It was accordingly arranged that the heirs should convey to him the entire collection for a sum much below its apparent value, he agreeing to have it put in thorough order, and to have selections from it printed from time to time either by himself or by the Massachusetts Historical Society, or by some similar institution. In December, 1860, it was removed to Boston and re-united to that portion of it which (as already mentioned) had long before been given by Francis Bayard Winthrop (senior) to Hon. Thomas Lindall Winthrop, and subsequently been inherited by Hon. R. C. Winthrop.

Mr. Winthrop fully expected the New London papers would prove of great interest, but he was quite unprepared for their exceeding richness,

variety, and extent, as developed by gradual examination; and it became evident that they constituted not merely an unrivalled collection of early New England autographs, but also an unsuspected mine of information for students.

To call the correspondence of John and Margaret Winthrop to fresh notice, and, if may be, to extend acquaintance with it by producing it in a new and convenient shape, is the design of the present volume.

Regarding the execution of it two questions arose. First, whether it should include the whole. What raised this question was the fact that of the ninety-five separate pieces comprised in the correspondence, a considerable share are almost exclusively occupied, as would naturally happen under the circumstances, with the minor order of passing household and business affairs, often obscurely indicated. As these were likely to be of not much interest to the generality of readers, it was concluded that, considering the object in view, it was advisable to omit the majority of them. In

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some cases postscripts have been omitted on the same ground.

The other question concerned the orthography to be used. Writing in the seventeenth century, before our orthographic liberties were lost, the Winthrops were in divers points of literary practice, — punctuation, abbreviation, employment of capitals, but particularly spelling, — a law unto themselves.

The letters published by Mr. Savage in 1825 — obtained from that portion of the Winthrop Papers referred to in Mr. Winthrop's memorandum as given by Francis Bayard Winthrop, Sr., to his son — were modernized by the copyist. In the later "Life and Letters of John Winthrop" by the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, these letters were continued in that form, while all the rest were allowed to retain essentially the form in which they had been written.

It was obviously proper that in such a publication as the present they should appear in a uniform orthography. For

what seemed a clear preponderance of reasons, the old was preferred. Accordingly those of the modernized letters embraced in this collection have, with the slight changes only required to make them readable, been recopied from the originals, — except letters xxvi., xxxvi., and xlvi., the originals of which are missing. For the facilities necessary to this purpose courteously afforded, the editor is under obligation to the Massachusetts Historical Society, and particularly to Dr. S. A. Green, its librarian. Also to the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop for his free consent to the use at will of the additional larger portion of the correspondence, by him laboriously rescued from oblivion, as found in his “Life and Letters of John Winthrop.”

JOSEPH HOPKINS TWICHELL.

HARTFORD, 1893.



## PRELUDE.

ADAM WINTHROP TO MARGARET TYNDAL.

[The editor is confident that no reader will judge it otherwise than fitting that he inserts here, by way of prologue or prelude, the epistle of benediction which John Winthrop's aged father sent, with a gift, to Margaret Tyndal, when he learned of her betrothal to his son.]

*I AM, I assure you, (Gentle Mistress Margaret) already inflamed w<sup>th</sup> a fatherly Love and affection towards you: the w<sup>ch</sup> at the first, the only report of your modest behaviour, and mielde nature, did breede in my heart; but nowe throughe the manifest tokens of your true love, & constant minde, w<sup>ch</sup> I perceyve to be setteled in you towards my soonne, the same is exceedingly increased in mee. So that I cannot abstaine from expressinge it unto you by my pen in absence, w<sup>ch</sup> my tounge and mouthe I hope shal shortely declare unto you in presence. And then I doute not, but I shal have just cause to prayse God for you, and to thincke my selfe happy, that in my olde age I shal injoye the familiar company of so virtuous and loving a daughter; and passe the residue of my daies in*

*peace and quietnes. For I have hetherto had greate cause to magnifie his holy name for his loving kindenes & mercy shewed unto mee in my children, and in those to whom they have been married; that bothe I have alwaies deerly loved and affected them, and they also most lovinglye and dutifully have used mee. And therefore I assure you (good Mistress Margaret) that whatsoever love and kindenes you shal vouchsafe to shewe heereafter unto mee, I wil not only requite it w<sup>th</sup> the like, but also to the utter most of my power redouble the same. And for that I woulde fayne make it a little parte of your fayth to beleeve, that you shal be happye in matchinge w<sup>th</sup> my soonne, I doe heere faithfully promise for him (in the presence of almighty God,) that he will alwaies be a most kinde and lovinge husbände unto you, and a provident stuarde for you and yours during his lyfe, and also after his deathe. Thus w<sup>th</sup> my harty comendacions to your selfe, and to the good Lady your deere mother, confirminge my true Love and promise unto you, by a token of a smale value, but of a pure substance, w<sup>th</sup> I sende you by this trusty bearer, I doe leave you to y<sup>e</sup> protection of the most mighty Trinitye. this last of Marche 1618.*

*Your assured frende*

*ADAM WINTHROP.*

# SOME OLD PURITAN LOVE-LETTERS.



## I.

JOHN WINTHROP TO MARGARET TYNDAL.

[The end of the original of this letter is torn off; so that the signature and the date are wanting. But it must probably have been written early in the spring of 1618.]

*To my dearest freind & most hearty  
beloved M<sup>rs</sup> Marg<sup>t</sup> Tyndall.*

HAVINGE seariously considered of that unequall conflicte<sup>1</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> for my sake thou didst lately sustaine, & wherein yet, (although the odds were great), God beinge on thy side, thou gatest the victorye, I have had from hence a large provocatiō to acknowledge Gods providence & speciall favour towards me, & to give him thanks for so

<sup>1</sup> Occasioned, as appears further on, by opposition of Margaret's friends (or some of them) on the score of "outward respects," including the lover's inequality to the match in point of fortune, if nothing more.

great experience as hath been offered me  
herby of thy godlinesse, love, wisdom, &  
inviolable constancie;—w<sup>ch</sup> as in itselfe it  
deserves all approbatiō, so in me it is of  
suche vertue as the more I thinke of it, the  
more it drawes & knitts my heart unto thee,  
and hath settled that estimatiō of thy love  
therein, as (I am truly persuaded) nothinge  
but deathe shall abolishe or diminishe it.  
Such an invincible resolutiō could not have  
been founde in a poore fraile woman, had  
not thine armes been strengthened by the  
mightie God of Jacob. He it was w<sup>ch</sup> gave  
an other spirit to thyselfe & that good Lady  
thy mother, w<sup>th</sup> Caleb & Josuah, constantly  
to followe the Lord against all the discour-  
agements of the greater parte,—yea when  
my selfe, too cowardly & unkindly ioyned  
armes w<sup>th</sup> thine opposers against thee: But  
nowe doe I knowe that thou lovest me, &  
herby we may bothe be fully assured that  
this thinge comethe of the Lorde: There-  
fore it is my desire to confirme thy heart in  
this resolutiō; not that I feare any change

(farre be suche a thought from me) but for that I wishe thee a large additiō of comfort to thy constancie, w<sup>ch</sup> may molifie & heale up the scarres of such wounds as may yet remaine of thy late conflicte. And now I will take lib<sup>tie</sup> to deale freely w<sup>th</sup> thee since there is no need of persuasiō, nor any feare of suspitiō of flaterie; & let me tell thee that as thou hast doone worthyly & Christianly, so thou hast doone no otherwise than became thee being one professinge to feare God & beleeve in him: for (what so ever I am or may be, yet) beinge, in thy accompt, a servant of God & one that thou mightest well hope to be furthered to heaven by (Amen I say), & beinge offred unto thee by God, & thy selfe beinge as warrantably called to embrace the opportunitye as a woman might be, I see not how thou couldst have had peace to thine owne heart if thou hadst refused it; but thou mightest iustly have feared least, for w<sup>th</sup>drawinge thy heart from God & leaninge to thine owne reason, he should have given thee over to some suche

matche as should have proved a plauge to thy soule all thy dayes: Let worldly minds that savour not the things of God, & that indeed have no parte or portion in the least of Gods promises, bende all their care & studye to secure themselves of an earthly happinesse; let them make sure of great portions w<sup>th</sup> their wives & large Ioyntures from their husbands: they doe but their kinde, & I confesse it concernes them very muche to looke especially to suche things, for there is nothing else w<sup>ch</sup> they can have comfort or happinesse in, havinge no parte in Christ & beinge strangers from the covenant of grace; & therefore if they should be barred of their great hopes in these outward things, their God, their heaven, their ioye & all, were gone, their heart would dye w<sup>th</sup>in them like Naball: Therefore God lettis suche many tymes catche what they can scramble for, he fills their bellies w<sup>th</sup> his hidd treasure, they live in ease & pleasure, they nourishe their hearts as in a daye of slaughter, but he sends leannesse into their soules, & in the

ende when they are called to a reconinge, what fruit can they shewe forthe of all their labour, care, etc., but vanitye & vexatiō of spirit? And so they dye under a secure, or tormented conscience, w<sup>ch</sup> followes them to their owne place. But you, whom God hathe ordayned to a better ende, he lookes you should be guided by an other rule; he telles you that you are a pilgrime & stranger in this life, that you have no abidinge cytye heere but must looke for one to come: He w<sup>ch</sup> is your Kinge telles you that his kingdome is not of this world, if you desire to reigne w<sup>th</sup> him in his kingdome you must be content to be an underlinge w<sup>th</sup> him in the world's kingdome, & must looke for afflictiō heere, for the servant must not looke to be above the master: He telles you that the first worke in his service is to denye y<sup>or</sup> selfe; he bids you never to cheapen about the pearle except you be resolved to sell all for it, & never to thinke to gett him & his love except you can be content for his sake to leave, yea to hate father, mother, friends, goods, & yo<sup>r</sup>

owne life: for he telles you plainly that you can not serve 2 masters; so as if you love the world, the love of the Father cañot be in you: If you would knowe of him, who are the blessed, looke at that 5 of Math: & amongst all those 8 beatitudes you shall finde never a worde of riches, or honor, or ease, etc., but when the scripture speakes of suche things it setts a *caveat* upon them, as temptations, snares, riches of iniquitye, the choakes of the hopes of salvatiō, branded w<sup>th</sup> these 2 speciall observations by Christ & his Apostles—‘But the cares of the world & the deceitfulnesse of Riches & the Lusts of other thinges enter in & choake the worde, &c:’ And ‘w<sup>th</sup> while some have lusted after, they have erred from the faithe & have pierced themselves through w<sup>th</sup> many sorrowes.’—And tell me then what it will profite a man to winne the worlde & to loose his soule? It is the dearest purchase that must cost a man the losse of his soule. Who would take Demas his bargaine? And yet (no doubt) he was of the opiniō that our coñon



protestants are of in these dayes (who in the depthe of their devise wilbe wiser than Christ & his Apostles,) he thought he had founde an easier waye to heaven than other men, he thought to save his soule & yet keepe & love the world too: But he was deceived, & so shall they also, for the mouthe of the Lord hathe spoken it; let them please themselves never so muche w<sup>th</sup> their owne conceits in the meane tyme. Nowe for thee, I dare bouldly saye to thee that thou hast doone wisely in seekinge first the kingdome of heaven, & making sure for the better parte w<sup>ch</sup> shall not be taken from thee: for if it be a Rule of policie amongst the men of this world, to adventure upon the least hope of vertue in suche matches where there is assurance of a great portion, so as dayly examples of the contrarye ill event cannot drive such partyes from that ground: how muche more commendable is it in thee (& woorthy of thy profession, w<sup>ch</sup> esteemes Godlinesse as the greatest gaine) when havinge mett w<sup>th</sup> (at least in thy persuasion) suffi-

cient assurance of holynesse, thou canst be content to conceive hope of outward happynesse even from doubtfull conditions: And heerin thou canst want no incouragement for hope of good successe, amongst so many promises & examples as make for thy cause: Looke upon the blessinge of Salomons choyse; he sought onely wisdome, & God added all outward prosperitie: Consider Ruthes choyse, who for the love of the God of Israell forsooke hir owne countrye & friends to partake w<sup>th</sup> the povertie of a desolate widowe: but how did God recompense her in the ende? You may see the like in Moses, who if he had had the counsell of the wisdome of our tymes might have looked to have kept his greatnesse in the Court, & yet not have hindred his salvatiō, nor wanted Gods favour. I need instance no more, for the Scriptures & our owne tymes afforde many examples, w<sup>ch</sup> all consent in this, to persuade suche as beleeeve God & have their treasure in heaven, to make sure for salvatiō, & to cast the care of their present, incertaine,

transitorye conditiō upon the love & wisdome of him that is their father & God all-sufficient, who hath undertaken to care for them. And heerin I am persuaded (notwithstandinge callinge for a diligent & faithfull use of all good meanes) that a Christian cannot too boldly relye upon God whilst he yields himselfe in obedience to his will: for it dothe so fittly agree to the nature of a young childe, whereunto we must be like if ever we shall come in heaven: it is so called for, in all places of Scripture, as Psal: 37. 5. Rolle thy way upon the Lord, trust in him & he shall bringe it to passe: the whole Psalme is excellent to this purpose: So Phil: 4: 6. 7: Be carefull for nothinge, but in every thinge by prayer & supplicatiō, etc. But especially that in Luke, 12: 22, &c: Take no thought what you shall eate, &c: And observe how Christ urgeth that exhortatiō by the examples of the Lillies & Ravens, whence he gathers an unanswerable argument, verse 28: If God so clothe the grasse, &c: will he not clothe you? &c: The too frequent & cumbersome

cares, feares, doubtings, etc, that the minds & mouthes of most Christians are taken up w<sup>th</sup> in these dayes, doe plainly discover that men live not by faithe ; & that heaven is not their home, when they sett so muche store by the things of this worlde. Men are not satisfied w<sup>th</sup> such competencie as God allowes them, but hunt as eagerly after risings & increasings, as if it were the onely ende of their life : when yet we are exhorted to have our conversatiō w<sup>th</sup>out covetousnesse, & to be content w<sup>th</sup> what we have, for he hath promised that he will not faile us nor forsake us, &c : And Salomon in all his wisdome & experience tells us that it is the blessinge of God that makes riche w<sup>th</sup>out addinge sorrowe : But the tymes seem nowe to be changed, & the prises of Salomons merchandice to be muche abated, as if you reade the 3 of the Proverbes from the 13 verse to the ende of the 18<sup>th</sup> you will thinke as I saye. But I forgett myselfe in runninge so farre in this argument : but I take the more lib<sup>tie</sup> (as I sayd at first) because I would

confirme that in thy heart whereunto God hath alreadye persuaded thee; & God of his mercye persuade us bothe to a constant followinge of the hope of salvatiō w<sup>ch</sup> is layd up for us in Christ, & so shedd abroad his love in our hearts by that spirit of Adoption, as beinge assured that our names are written in the booke of life, we may reioyce w<sup>th</sup> ioye unspeakable & glorious. Amen.

By this w<sup>ch</sup> I have alreadye written I may seeme to confirme those obiections w<sup>ch</sup> thy freinds have moved, & to grant that there should be great causes of discouragement offered thee in outward respects: But I trust I shall make it appeare that thou shalt have no wronge or disparagement by matchinge w<sup>th</sup> me, all things beinge indifferently considered: I confesse it is possible that I may die verye soone, & then thy maintenance for a while may be some what lesse then convenient; but it is more likely that I may live a fewe yeares w<sup>th</sup> thee, w<sup>ch</sup> will certainly better thy conditiō. But whether I live longer or lesse while, I can lett thee see how, w<sup>th</sup> a little

patience, thy meanes may be better than 80<sup>lb</sup> a yeare; yet can I promise no more for present certaintye then I have formerly acquainted thy freinds w<sup>th</sup>; neither would I that thou shouldest make this knowne to them. I had rather that they should finde it then expecte it. Whatsoever shall be wanting of that w<sup>ch</sup> thy love deserves, my kindest affection shall endeavour to supplie, whilst I live, & what I leave unsatisfied (as I never hope to be out of thy debt) I will sett over to Him who is able, & will recompense thee to the full: & for the present, I wish thee to followe the prophets exhortatiō Psal: 27. 14. Waite on the Lord, be of good courage, & he shall strengthen thyne heart; Waite I say on the Lorde.

II.

JOHN WINTHROP TO MARGARET TYNDAL.

*To my best beloved M<sup>rs</sup> Margaret Tyndall  
at Great Maplested, Essex.*

*Grace mercie & peace, &c :*

My onely beloved Spouse, my most sweet freind, & faithfull companion of my pilgrimage, the happye & hopefull supplie (next Christ Jesus) of my greatest losses, I wishe thee a most plentifull increase of all true comfort in the love of Christ, w<sup>th</sup> a large & prosperous addition of whatsoever happynesse the sweet estate of holy wedlocke, in the kindest societie of a lovinge husbände, may afford thee. Beinge filled w<sup>th</sup> the ioye of thy love, & wantinge opportunitie of more familiar com̄union w<sup>th</sup> thee, w<sup>ch</sup> my heart fervently desires, I am constrained to ease the burthen of my minde by this poore helpe of my scriblinge penne, beinge sufficiently assured that, although my presence is that w<sup>ch</sup> thou desirest, yet in the want thereof,

these lines shall not be unfruitfull of comfort unto thee. And now, my sweet Love, lett me a while solace my selfe in the remembrance of our love, of w<sup>ch</sup> this springe tyme of o<sup>r</sup> acquaintance can putt forthe as yet no more but the leaves & blossomes, whilest, the fruit lyes wrapped up in the tender budde of hope; a little more patience will disclose this good fruit, & bringe it to some maturitye: let it be o<sup>r</sup> care & labour to preserve these hopefull budds from the beasts of the field, & from frosts & other iniuryes of the ayre, least o<sup>r</sup> fruit fall off ere it be ripe, or lose ought in the beautye & pleasantnesse of it: Lett us pluck up suche nettles & thornes as would defraud o<sup>r</sup> plants of their due nourishment; let us prune off superfluous branches; let us not sticke at some labour in watering & manuringe them: — the plentye & goodnesse of o<sup>r</sup> fruit shall recompense us abundantly: O<sup>r</sup> trees are planted in a fruitfull soyle; the ground, & patterne of o<sup>r</sup> love, is no other but that betweene Christe & his deare spouse, of whom she speakes as she



finds him, My welbeloved is mine & I am his: Love was their banquetting house, love was their wine, love was their ensigne; Cant: 2. love was his invitings, love was hir fayntinges; love was his apples, love was hir comforts; love was his embracings, love was hir refreshinge: love made him see hir, love made hir seeke him: love made him wedde hir, love made hir followe him: love made him hir saviour, love makes hir his servant. Love bredd o<sup>r</sup> fellowshipe, let Jer: 2. 2,  
Ezek: 16. love continue it, & love shall increase it, Jo: 3: 16.  
Deut:  
10: 12. untill deathe dissolve it. The prime fruit of the Spirit is love; truethe of Spirit & Gal: 5: 22. true love: abounde w<sup>th</sup> the spirit, & abounde w<sup>th</sup> love: continue in the spirit & continue in love: Christ in his love so fill o<sup>r</sup> hearts w<sup>th</sup> holy hunger & true appetite, to eate & drinke w<sup>th</sup> him & of him in this his sweet Love feast,<sup>1</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> we are now preparinge unto, that when o<sup>r</sup> love feast shall come, Christ

<sup>1</sup> Referring to the sacrament of the Holy Communion which it was then the custom to administer to the bride and bridegroom at their marriage.

Jesus himselfe may come in unto us, & suppe w<sup>th</sup> us, & we w<sup>th</sup> him: so shall we be merrye indeed. (O my sweet Spouse) can we esteeme eache others love, as worthy the recompence of o<sup>r</sup> best mutuall affections, & can we not discern so muche of Christs exceedinge & undeserved love, as may cheerfully allure us to love him above all? He loved us & gave himselfe for us; & to helpe the weaknesse of the eyes & hande & mouthe of o<sup>r</sup> faithe, w<sup>ch</sup> must seeke him in heaven where he is, he offers himselfe to the eyes, hands & mouthe of o<sup>r</sup> bodye, heere on earthe where he once was. The Lord increace o<sup>r</sup> faithe.

Nowe my deare heart let me parlye a little w<sup>th</sup> thee about trifles, for when I am present w<sup>th</sup> thee my speeche is preiudiced by thy presence, w<sup>ch</sup> drawes my minde from it selfe: I suppose nowe, upon thy unkle's com̄inge, there wilbe advisinge & counsellinge of all hands; & amongst many I knowe there wilbe some, that wilbe provokinge thee, in these indifferent things, as matter of

apparell, fashions & other circumstances, rather to give contente to their vaine minds savouringe too muche of the fleshe &c, then to be guided by the rule of Gods worde, w<sup>ch</sup> must be the light & the Rule; for allthoughe I doe easily grant that the Kingdome of heaven is not meat & drinke, apparell &c, but Righteousnesse, peace &c: yet beinge forbidden to fashion o'selves like unto this world, & to avoyde not onely evill but all appearance of it must be avoyded, & allso what soever may breed offence to the weake (for w<sup>ch</sup> I praye thee reade for thy direction the xiiij<sup>th</sup> to the Rom :) & for that Christians are rather to seeke to edifie then to please, I hould it a rule of Christian wisdome in all these things to followe the soberest examples: I confesse that there be some ornaments w<sup>ch</sup> for Virgins & Knights daughters, &c, may be comly & tollerable, w<sup>ch</sup> yet in so great a change as thine is, may well admitt a change also: I will medle w<sup>th</sup> no particulars, neither doe I thinke it shalbe needfull; thine owne wisdome & godlinesse shall teache thee sufficiently what to doe in

suche things: & the good assurance w<sup>ch</sup> I have of thy unfained love towards me, makes me perswaded that thou wilt have care of my contentment, seeing it must be a cheife staye to thy comfort: & w<sup>th</sup>all the great & sincere desire w<sup>ch</sup> I have that there might be no discouragement to daunt the edge of my affections, whyle they are truly labouring to settle & repose themselves in thee, makes me thus watchfull & icialous of the least occasion that Sathan might stirre up to o<sup>r</sup> discomfort. He that is faithfull in the least wilbe faithfull in the greatest, but I am too fearfull I doe thee wronge, I knowe thou wilt not grieve me for trifles. Let me intreat thee (my sweet Love) to take all in good parte, for it is all of my love to thee, & in my love I shall requite thee: I acknowledge, indeed, thou maist iustly say to me as Christ to the Pharisies, Hypocrite, first cast out the beame that is in thine owne eye &c, for whatsoever I may be in thy opinion, yet mine owne guiltie heart tells me of farre greater things to be reformed in my selfe, & yet I feare there is mucche more than in mine

owne partiall iudgment I can discerne; iust cause I have to complaine of my pride, unbelief, hardnesse of heart & impenitencie, vanitye of minde, unrulinesse of my affections, stubbornesse of my will, ingratitude, & unfaithfullnesse in the Covenant of my God, &c. therefore (by Gods assistance) I will endeavour that in myselfe, w<sup>ch</sup> I will also desire in thee. Let us search & trye o<sup>r</sup> hearts & turne to the Lord: for this is o<sup>r</sup> safetye, not o<sup>r</sup> owne innocencye, but his mercie: If when we were enemies he loved us to reconciliatō; much more, beinge reconciled will he save us from destructiō.

Lastly for my farewell (for thou seest my lothenesse to parte w<sup>th</sup> thee makes me to be teadious) take courage unto thee, & cheare up thy heart in the Lorde, for thou knowest that Christ thy best husbände can never faile thee: he never dies, so as there can be no greife at partinge; he never changes, so as once beloved & ever the same: his abilitye is ever infinite, so as the dowrye & inheritance of his sonnes & daughters can never be diminished. As for me a poore worme,

dust & ashes, a man full of infirmityes, subiect to all sinnes, changes & chances, w<sup>ch</sup> befall the sonnes of men, how should I promise thee any thinge of my selfe, or if I should, what credence couldst thou give thereto, seeinge God only is true & every man a lyar. Yet so farre as a man may presume upon some experience, I may tell thee, that my hope is, that suche còmfort as thou hast allreadye conceived of my love towards thee, shall (throughe Gods blessinge) be happily continued; his grace shalbe sufficient for me, & his power shalbe made perfect in my greatest weaknesse: onely let thy godly, kinde, & sweet carriage towards me, be as fuell to the fire, to minister a constant supplie of meet matter to the confirminge & quickninge of my dull affections: This is one ende why I write so muche unto thee, that if there should be any decaye in kindnesse &c, throughe my default & slacknesse heerafter, thou mightest have some patternes of o<sup>r</sup> first love by thee, to helpe the recoverye of suche diseases: yet let o<sup>r</sup> trust be wholly in God, & let us constantlye followe

him by o<sup>r</sup> prayers, complaininge & moaninge unto him o<sup>r</sup> owne povertye, imperfections & unworthynesse, untill his fatherly affectiō breake forthe upon us, & he speake kindly to the hearts of his poore servant & hand-mayd, for the full assurance of Grace & peace through Christ Jesus, to whom I nowe leave thee (my sweet Spouse & onely beloved). God send us a safe & comfortable meetinge on Mondaye morninge. Farewell. Remember my love & dutye to my Ladye thy good mother, w<sup>th</sup> all kinde & due salutations to thy unkle E : & all thy brothers & sisters.

Thy husband by promise

JOHN WINTHROP.

GROTON where I wish thee. Aprill 4. 1618.

My father & mother salute thee heartyly w<sup>th</sup> my Lady & the rest.

If I had thought my lettre would have runne to halfe this lengthe I would have mayde choyce of a larger paper.

## III.

## JOHN WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

[Margaret is away from home attending on her mother in her last sickness.]

*To my lovinge friende Mrs Winthrop at Chelmsey  
House in Great Maplested, Essex.*

MY DEARE WIFE, — I beseeche the Lorde  
o<sup>r</sup> good God to blesse thee & thy little babe<sup>1</sup>  
w<sup>th</sup> all spirituall blessings in heavenly things,  
& w<sup>th</sup> a comfortable supplie of all things  
needful for this present life, w<sup>th</sup> such a por-  
tion of the true wisdome as may cause us  
allwayes to discerne of the worthe & excel-  
lencie of Ch<sup>t</sup> Jesus, to take him as o<sup>r</sup> onely  
portion, & to love him w<sup>th</sup> all o<sup>r</sup> heart, as  
o<sup>r</sup> best thanke offeringe for his unspeake-  
ble love & mercie in redeeminge us from  
o<sup>r</sup> sinnes by his owne death, & adoptinge us  
into the right of the inheritance of his fathers  
Kingdome. To him be glory & prayse for  
ever, Amen.

<sup>1</sup> Adam.



Albeit I cannot conveniently come to thee yet, I could not but sende to knowe how thou doest, & in what state thy good mother continueth, w<sup>th</sup> the rest of o<sup>r</sup> freinds: That w<sup>ch</sup> we nowe foresee & feare in hir, we must looke to come to o<sup>r</sup> selves, & then neither freinds nor goods, pleasure nor honor, will stande us in any stead, onely a good conscience sprinkled w<sup>th</sup> the blood of Ch<sup>t</sup> shall give us peace w<sup>th</sup> God & o<sup>r</sup> owne sowles.

We are all heer in good health (I prayse God) yet not well contented untill thou returnest to Groton, but I will not hasten to abridge thy deare mother of that comfort w<sup>ch</sup> she may receive in thy companie. My sweet spouse, let us delight in the love of eache other as the chiefe of all earthly comforts: & labour to increase therein by the constant experience of eache others faithfulness & sinceritye of affection, formed into the similitude of the Love of Ch<sup>t</sup> & his Church. Looke for me on thursday or friday (if God will) & remember me to thy good

mother & all y<sup>e</sup> rest as thou knowest my  
duty & desires, etc. My parents salute  
thee; many kisses of Love I sende thee:  
farewell.

JOHN WINTHROP.

JULY 12. 1620.

IV.

JOHN WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

*To my verye lovinge wife Mrs. Winthrop  
at Groton in Suffolk.*

MY TRUELY BELOVED & DEARE WIFE, —  
I salute thee heartylye, giving thankes to  
God who bestowed thee upon me, & hath  
continued thee unto me, the chiefest of all  
comforts under the hope of Salvation, which  
hope cannot be valued: I pray God that  
these earthly blessings of mariage, healthe,  
friendship, etc, may increase our estimation  
of our better & onely ever duringe happi-  
nesse in heaven, & may quicken up our  
appetite thereunto accordinge to the worth  
thereof: O my sweet wife, let us rather  
hearken to the advise of our lovinge Lord  
who calles upon us first to seeke the king-  
dom of God, & tells us that one thinge is  
needfull, & so as without it the gaine of the  
whole world is nothings: rather then to looke  
at the frothy wisdom of this worlde & the

foolishnesse of such examples as propounde outwarde prosperitye for true felicitye.— God keepe us that we never swallowe this baite of Sathan: but let us looke unto the worde of God & cleave fast unto it, & so shall we be safe.

I know you have heard before this of my com̄ing to London: I thank God we had a prosperous journye & found all well where we came: I doubt not but thy desire wilbe now to heare of my returne, which (to deale truly with thee) I fear will not be untill the middest of next weeke: for the Parl<sup>t</sup> is putt off for a week; & I have many friends to visit in a short tyme: but my heart is all-ready with thee & thy little lambes,<sup>1</sup> so as I will hasten home with what convenient speed I may: In the meane tyme, I will not be unmindfull of you all: but commend you dayly to the blessinge & protection of our heavenly Father.

The newes from Bohemia is very badd,

<sup>1</sup> Stephen and Adam. Stephen became a colonel in the civil wars, and a member of one of Cromwell's Parliaments.

' as that there is a generall defection from the Kinge of Bohemia &c: Secretary Nanton<sup>1</sup> is commanded to keepe his howse: the King is gone to Theobalds & many wilbe idle untill he returne.

Remember my dutye to my father & mother, my love to Mr. Sands<sup>2</sup> & all the rest of my true freinds that shall ask of me, & my blessing to our Children; & so giving thee commission to conceive more of my Love then I can write, I rest

Thy faythfull husbände

JOHN WINTHROP.

My brother salutes you all.

JAN. 23. 1620 [1621].<sup>3</sup>

My brother Tindall' & my sister wilbe at Groton before Lente (if God will), there would be some fowles provided & some Ale, etc.

<sup>1</sup> Sir Robert Naunton, Secretary of State.

<sup>2</sup> Rector of Groton.

<sup>3</sup> The dating of these letters is after the Old Style, by which the new year came in March 25. Where the New Style would change the number of the year, it is indicated, as in this instance.

## V.

## JOHN WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

[This and the following, from London, were written, it will be observed, on successive days.]

*To my most lovinge & deare wife*

*M<sup>rs</sup> Marg<sup>t</sup> Winthrop at Groton in Suffolk.*

MY DEARLY BELOVED WIFE, — the blessing of o<sup>r</sup> heavenly father be upon thee & all o<sup>rs</sup>: & he who hath preserved & prospered us hitherto, w<sup>th</sup>out o<sup>r</sup> meritts of his free goodnesse, continue us in his favour, & the comfort of each others Love, unto o<sup>r</sup> last & most happie change. I trust by the blessing of God to be restored safe to thee on Saturdaye next: for my heart is at home, & specially w<sup>th</sup> thee my best beloved, yet the businesse I came for is come to no passe, & there is cause to feare lest it will not be effected this week: therefore be not over confident of my returne untill tuesdaye next weeke: but I hope I shall write to thee

again if I be likely to stayer. O: freinds  
heere are all in health: I am much streight-  
ened in tyme, & therefore canot satisfye my  
selfe in writinge as I desire, gather the rest  
out of thyne owne faithfull assurance of my  
Love: so w<sup>th</sup> the sweetest kisses, & pure  
imbracings of my kindest affection I rest  
Thine

JOHN WINTHROP.

Remember my dutye to parents & love-  
inge salutations to suche good freinds as  
thou knowest I desire, etc.

LONDON. May 9: 1621.

## VI.

MOST DEARE & LOVINGE WIFE, — I wrote unto thee by o<sup>r</sup> neighbo<sup>r</sup> Cole, beinge then uncertaine of my returne, yet I hoped to have been w<sup>th</sup> thee on Saterdag but it so fallethe out, that I am inforced to staye except I should leave my sister Goldinge<sup>1</sup> destitute, & the businesse I came for w<sup>th</sup>out effecte, w<sup>ch</sup> I cannot now faile w<sup>th</sup> comfote & good reporte. Therefore I must intreat thy gentle patience untill this businesse be dispatched, w<sup>ch</sup> I hope wilbe betymes the next weeke. In the meane tyme thou art well persuaded that my heart is w<sup>th</sup> thee, as (I know) thine is w<sup>th</sup> him to whom thou hast given thyselfe, a faithfull & lovinge yokefellowe: who truely prising this gifte as the greatest earthly blessing, provokes thy Love to abounde in those fruits of mutuall kind-

<sup>1</sup> No sister or sister-in-law of the name known at this day. Probably so called in the Christian sense; perhaps a client.



nesse, etc, that may adde a daylye increase of comfort & sweet content in this happinesse. I would willingly offer a request unto thee, w<sup>ch</sup> yet I will not urge (not knowing what inconveniences may lye in the waye) but it would be very gratefull to me to meet thee at Maplested on Wensday next, but be it as God shall guide thy heart & the opportunitye. It is now neere XI of the clocke & tyme to sleepe, therefore I must ende. The Lord o<sup>r</sup> heavenly father bless & keepe thee & all o<sup>rs</sup>, & let this salutation serve for all, for I know not how safe a messinger I shall have for these. Remember my dutye & Love as thou knowest how to bestowe them. farewell,

Thine

JOHN WINTHROP.

I send thee divers things by Wells in a trusse.<sup>1</sup>

MAY 10: 1621.

<sup>1</sup> Parcel.

## VII.

[Winthrop is absent from Groton as guest at the wedding of his sister Lucy, who is to be married the next day to Emanuel Downing. George Downing, the eldest son of this marriage, was of the first class which matriculated at Harvard College. He was the Sir George Downing who subsequently acted so important and honourable a part in the English Revolution, and from whom Downing Street in London took its name.]

MY DEARE WIFE, — I prayse God, we are come safe to Londō, where we finde all well. We are now at Redrife at a kinsmans of my brother Downings, where we are most kindly entertained: we have ofte wished thee with us, but wishes are vaine: I trust, God will give us to meet againe shortlye in peace & sweet comfort, in the fruition of o! mutuall Love; in the meane tyme let this staye o! hearts, that no distance of place or space of tyme can sever us, in respect of o! true & fervent affections to each other; whereof every occasiō shall give us more assurance. I am too much streightened in tyme to write

to hir whom I love so dearly (it beinge now XI of the clock this tuesday night); thy kind heart must gather a great deale of matter from a fewe scribled lines. I will adde no more, but beseech the Lo: to blesse thee & all o: younge ones, & send us a ioyfull meetinge. Remember my dutye to parents & Love to all whom thou shalt think fitt: my brother Downing & sister salute thee most kindly etc. farewell my sweet wife, farewell.

Thy faithfull lovinge husband

JOHN WINTHROP.

REDERIFE, April 9. 1622.

## VIII.

JOHN WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

MY DEARE WIFE, — Thy sweet Lettres (w<sup>th</sup>out date) how welcome they were to me I cañot expresse: both in regard of the continuance of thy health & thy little ones, my mother & o<sup>r</sup> whole familye, for w<sup>ch</sup> I humbly blesse & prayse o<sup>r</sup> good God & Heavenly father, & doe heartyly begge of him & trust in him for the continuance of the same mercie to thyselfe & all the rest: as also in respect of the manifestation of the constancie & increase of thy true love wherein (I seariously professe) I doe more reioyce then in any earthly blessinge: O how I prize the sweet societye of so modest & faithfull a spouse! O that I could be wise to be thankfull & improve it, accordinge to that esteeme w<sup>ch</sup> I have of it when I want it! I am heere where I have all outward content, most kinde entertainment, good companye & good fare,

My sweet wife

Blessed be God, he who's providence & protection  
I am come safe to London: here I find them all  
in health, & a great deal of kind welcome, only  
thy company is wanting, which they much desire.  
I doubt my business coming to spring will be  
found till the spring, for in those parts stands  
his house) & he are broken off: thus man purpose  
all God's disposal: so that we had leave at length  
to trust for our own power too: & cast  
care upon him, & leave our counsel to some  
firm confidence &c: then should it goe well, &  
is assuredly: then should we leave it in his true  
power & perfect understanding: but it is our  
wished especially that he's good things from us,  
Let us therefore pray earnestly & labor for his  
protection faith, it will recompense all of cost  
for such news as is here his grace can sufficiently



&c: onely the want of thy presence & amiable society makes me weary of all other accomplishments, so deare is thy love to me, & so confident am I of the like entertainem<sup>t</sup> my true affection findes w<sup>th</sup> thee: O that the consideration of these things could make us raise up o<sup>r</sup> spirits to a like comformitye of sinceritye & fervencie in the Love of Christ o<sup>r</sup> Lord & heavenly husband; that we could delight in him as we doe in each other, & that his absence were like greivous to us: But the Love of this present world, how it bewitcheth us & steales away our hearts from him who is o<sup>r</sup> onely life & felicitye; but I must break off this discourse. The blessed protection & favour of the Lord be still w<sup>th</sup> thee & all o<sup>r</sup> familye, & bring us together againe in peace: thou & the rest are kindly remembered of all heere; remember my duty to my mother & my love to all thou knowest I wish it. My brother Fones<sup>1</sup> is gotten abroad againe, my sister is as she useth to

<sup>1</sup> Brother-in-law Thomas Fones. Anna Winthrop had been his first wife.

be, the rest of us are all in health (I prayse God). Our businesse goeth on, tho' slowlye as matters use to do at Court. My brother sends Richard home this daye & meanes to stay awhile himselfe, to see further successe. Let Sam: come up on monday & bring my horse, for I will leave my brother heere awhile; let him be heere on teusdaye betymes, for I would goe out of London the same daye. Heere is no newes but of the Princes<sup>1</sup> beinge at sea, where he hath bin wind bound a great while: Thus embracing thee in the true affection of a faithfull husband, I will so remain

Thine

JOHN WINTHROP.

✓ I have nothinge to send thee but my love, neither shall I bringe thee anythinge but my selfe, w<sup>ch</sup> I knowe wilbe best welcome.

LONDON, Octob 3. 1623.

<sup>1</sup> Prince Charles (afterwards Charles I.), on the fruitless enterprise of promoting the scheme of a Spanish alliance by contracting marriage with the Infanta.



IX.

JOHN WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

MY SWEET WIFE,— I blesse the Lorde for his continued blessings upon thee and o<sup>r</sup> familye: & I thanke thee for thy kinde lettres: But I knowe not what to saye for myselfe: I should mende & growe a better husband, havinge the helpe & example of so good a wife, but I growe still worse: I was wonte heertofore, when I was longe absent, to make some supplie w<sup>th</sup> volumes of Lettres; but I can scarce afforde thee a few lines: Well, there is no helpe but by enlarginge thy patience, & strengtheninge thy good opinion of him, who loves thee as his owne soule, & should count it his greatest Afflictio<sup>n</sup> to live without thee: but because thou art so deare to him, he must choose rather to leave thee for a tyme, than to enioye thee: I am sorye I must still prolonge thy expectatiō, for I cañot come forth of London till Tues-

daye at soonest; the Lorde blesse & keepe  
thee & all o<sup>rs</sup> & sende us a ioyfull meetinge.  
So I kisse my sweet wife & rest

Thy faithfull husband

JO: WINTHROP.

My brother & sister<sup>1</sup> salute thee. My  
sonne & daughter<sup>2</sup> remember their dutye;  
the match<sup>3</sup> goeth on fast enough, I am like  
to bring them downe w<sup>th</sup> me.

Thy Syder was so well liked that we must  
needs have more as soone as thou canst.

Nov: 26. 1624.

<sup>1</sup> The Downings.

<sup>2</sup> John and Mary, children of Winthrop's first wife, Mary  
Forth.

<sup>3</sup> See next letter.

X.

MARGARET WINTHROP TO HER HUSBAND.

[Here Margaret enters the correspondence. Other "sweet Lettres" she had written (see letter viii.), and certainly a good many in the six years since her betrothal, which one would much like to see, particularly her answers to i. and ii. But this is the first that is preserved. It is without date, — an omission frequent with her. Of the internal evidence that assigns it to this place the most distinct point is her mention in the postscript of her step-daughter Mary and "hir welwiler," in apparent response to a reference in the letter foregoing. Mary was about fourteen years old at this time. But the Puritans mated early. Winthrop himself was married when only a little past seventeen. The "match," however, in this instance, was a transient affair. It was not till several years later that Mary became the wife of Thomas Dudley's son in New England.]

*To hir very Lovinge husband*

*John Winthrope, Esq. theese.*

MY DEARE HUSBAND, — I am sory it faleth out so that I coulde not send for thee at the time appoynted, by reson of my mans beinge from home, & the unfitnessse of your horsse for travill, that I must be constrained to for-

bear sending for thee till I can get meanes, though it be with a great deale of greefe to me: I hope you will not impute or take it ill at my hands, for theare wants no will in me, but that I wanted abilyty to performe it. My sonne came safe home on fryday, and brought me thy kinde letter, with the nuse of all your welfayres w<sup>ch</sup> I desyre the lord longe to continue to his glory & for the good of many others. I shall thinke the tyme very longe before I see thee; I pray make hast for thou shalt be very welcome: I am much indetted to my sister D. for hir kindenesse to my daughter M. I pray tel hir I give hir many thanks for that, & al other fruits of hir love, and thus with my best respect remembered to thy selfe & all the rest of our friends, I desyre the lord to send us a comfortable meetinge and commit thee to the lord.

Your loving and obedient wife,

MARGARET WINTHROPE.

I have now received thy lovinge letter by goodman N. and rejoyce that the time is so

near wherein I shall see thee. I am well ✓  
perswaded of thy love and can see it in a  
few lines as in a whole volem — my daugh-  
ter M & hir welwiler shall be very welcome  
to me if you pleas to bring them — My sonne  
F.<sup>1</sup> and John<sup>2</sup> came home on Saturday late  
from theare roveinge, haveinge bin from  
home two dayes & I have well chid them for  
theare paynes; I hope John will make the  
more hast. Your good servant remembers  
hir service and thankes you for hir letter, she  
desyreth to be excused from rightinge, have-  
inge many other letters to right: my sister  
F. wil tel John where to have a pillyon for  
M. I thinke she ware best ryde dubble.

<sup>1</sup> Step-son Forth.

<sup>2</sup> Not step-son John; who was in London.

## XI.

## JOHN WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

[Margaret is at her father's house in Essex ; Winthrop at Sudbury on business, or on the road between Groton and London, going or coming. The year is 1626 or 1627.]

*To my verye lovinge wife M<sup>rs</sup> Winthrop  
at Chemsye house in G<sup>t</sup> Maplested.*

My SWEET WIFE, — The grace & blessing of the Lorde be w<sup>th</sup> thee ever, & w<sup>th</sup> us bothe, for the continuance & increase of o<sup>r</sup> mutuall love in all truethe & holinesse; whereunto let us strive by prayer & stirringe up each other, that we may have full assurance of o<sup>r</sup> beinge in Christ, by o<sup>r</sup> livenesse in Christianitye; that we may live that life of faithe, w<sup>ch</sup> onely affords true peace, comfort, & contentatiō: & if by this meanes the world shall disclaime us as none of hirs, & shall refuse to hould out to us suche full breasts as she dothe to others, this shall not need to trouble us, but rather may give us matter of ioye in that beinge strangers heere, we may

looke for o<sup>r</sup> inheritance in a better life. I feared thou shouldst take could & therefore I have sent thee another garment. I knowe not certainly when I shall come for thee, but as soone as conveniently I can: in the meane tyme, be sure, my heart is w<sup>th</sup> thee, & so I comēde thee againe to the protection, blessinge & direction of o<sup>r</sup> heavenly father, farewell —

Thine &c:

JOHN WINTHROP.

from SUDBURYE, Sept: 26.

Remember my dutye & love to all as thou knowest I owe them.

## XII.

MARGARET WINTHROP TO HER HUSBAND.

[The "lovinge and longe letters" Margaret acknowledges are missing. Those that remain of their correspondence at about this time (1626-1627) are mostly hers.]

*To my very lovinge Husband*

*John Winthrope Esquire, these &c.*

MOST DEARE HUSBAND, — I did thinke to have ritten no more to you, hopeinge to see you shortly; and yet I am so much indebttd to you for your lovinge and longe letters, that I must nedes rite a word or two to show my thankfulnesse and kind exceptance of them, allthoughe I can doe nothinge to equall them or to requit your love; and so I thinke I had better doe a littell then not at all, that I may shew my willingnesse to doe it thoughe I am ashamed I can doe no better. And now I shall longe for that happy hour when I shall see you and enjoy my sweet and deare husband; the Lord send us a comfortable meetinge. I am sory the wether is so



bad. I pray be as carefull as you can of takeinge colde. — I send up by John a pece of plate, and a turkey for my brother Fones. I pray remember my love to my brothers and sisters and my sonne John, and thus with my dearest and best affections to my beloved husband, desireinge the Lord to send you a safe and prosperous journey, I commit you to the protection of almyty God who is onely able to keepe you.

Your lovinge and obedient wife

MARGARET WINTHROPE.

FEBRUARY 13.

I pray if you doe not think this pece of plate which I have sent up good enufe, that you would make choyce of a better your selfe when you come home; you shall have it with a very good will.

## XIII.

MARGARET WINTHROP TO HER HUSBAND.

MOST DEARE AND LOVINGE HUSBAND, —  
I receved your most kinde and comforttable  
letters and the things you sent, for w<sup>ch</sup> I  
hartyly thanke you. I prayse God for the  
continuanc of y<sup>or</sup> helth and all the rest of  
our frends. I am glad to heare that my  
sonne Henrys voyage<sup>1</sup> is like to be for his  
good. I pray God goe out with him and  
send him a safe returne that wee may have  
cause to blesse God for him. My good hus-  
ban I thanke you for putinge me in minde  
to be chereful, and to put my trust in my  
good God who hath never fayled me in  
time of nede. I beseech him to continue  
his mercy stil to me and grant that my  
sinnes may not provoke his anger against  
me: for he is a just God and will punish  
offenders. The lord give me grace to make

<sup>1</sup> To the Barbadoes.

my peace with him in Jesus Christ our lord and onely Saviour, who siteth at the right hand of God a mediator for us. I did send Mr. Weny the little boxe uppon Wensday night, but he sayd it came to late; hé should have had it in the morning. I have not yet receved any monye to paye Gage but as sounes as I have I will paye him; Chot was with me for monye and had a little; I knew not his want and thought I had better let him have sune then drive him to steal and offend God. My mother will come up the next weake if the wether be any thinge warme (or elce not) and bringe little Luse and James;<sup>1</sup> she sayth that she shall use y<sup>or</sup> horses, and so my brother Jennye<sup>2</sup> can not have any; she sayth that John shall nede goe no further then Witham, for ther she will meete Ipswich Coach. I pray tell my good sonne John that I thanke him for my Booke and for my boyes tokens, and thus with my mothers and my owne true love

<sup>1</sup> The Downing children.

<sup>2</sup> Winthrop's brother-in-law by his second marriage.

remembred to you all in the best maner we can expresse, and so intreating you to be mindfull of me and myne in y<sup>or</sup> prayers I commit you to the lord our good God and rest

Your obedient wife always

MARGARET WINTHROPE.

APRIL 17.

Heare was with me Thomas Axden<sup>1</sup> and brought a letter from Forth w<sup>ch</sup> I send you; he did aske me if you sayd nothings to me about his tutors quarterage and I told him I would right to you about it; he came over to see Thomas Calewe and is returned back againe. We are all heare in helth I prayse God, my brother Goslinge<sup>2</sup> and sister remember thear love to you all, he cometh up with my mother.

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Archisden; Forth Winthrop's chum at Cambridge.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Gostlin, husband of Winthrop's sister Jane.

XIV.

MARGARET WINTHROP TO HER HUSBAND.

(1626-1627.)

*To my very lovinge Husband John Winthrope  
Esquire at M<sup>r</sup> Downinge house in fleets  
strete neere the coundite these del<sup>r</sup>.*

MY MOST KINDE & LOVINGE HUSBAND,—  
I did receve your most sweet Letter by my  
brother Goslinge, and doe prayse God for  
the continuance of your health, and the rest  
of our frends. I thanke the Lorde wee are  
also in health, and thinke longe for your com-  
ing home. My good husband y<sup>or</sup> love to me  
doeth dayly give me cause of comfort, and  
doeth much increce my love to you, for love  
liveth by love. I ware worse then a brute  
beast if I should not love and be faythfull  
to thee, who hath deserved so well at my  
hands. I am ashamed and greved with my  
selfe that I have no thinge within or without  
worthy of thee, and yet it pleaseth thee to

except of both and to rest contented. I had need to amend my life and pray to God for more grace that I may not deceve you of those good hopes which you have of me,— a sinfull woman, full of infirmities, continually fayleinge of what I desire and what I ought to performe to the Lorde and thy selfe. I hope in God wee shall now shortly meet with comfort, for which I shall pray. — Your horse shal be at London upon Saterdag and we shall see you I hope on tuesday. I will send you up by John that you did rite for, and if you thinke good you may change it for a nue one, but doe as you thinke best ; if I have any thinge that may plesure you at any time you shall willingly have it, and if the carier doe call heere this weeke I will send my sister Downinge some puddings to make hir some part of amense, because hir share was so small in the last. My mother and my selfe and brother and sister Goslinge remember our love to you and all the rest of our frends ; my brother Jenney remembers his love to you and woulde intreate you to

deliver this letter heere inclosed; and thus with my love and best affections even with a love incresinge I take my leave and commit you to the Lord, who is alsoficent and able to preserve you from all danger and send you safe home.

Your lovinge and obedient wife

MARGARET WINTHROPE.

I pray remember my blesinge and love to my sonne John.

## XV.

JOHN WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

MY MOST DEARE & SWEET SPOUSE, — I received thy kinde Lettre, the true Image of thy most lovinge heart, breathinge out the faithfull desires of thy sweet sowle, towards him that prizeth thee above all thinges in the world: & blessed be oʳ good God & heavenly father, who of his rich mercye is pleased still to afforde us matter of ioy & thankfullnesse in the good newes of each others wellfare, & of those w<sup>ch</sup> are neere & deare unto us: our onely care must be how to be answeareable in oʳ thankfullnesse & walkinge worthy his great mercies. We continue all in health, I prayse God: I had a Lettre w<sup>th</sup>in these 2 dayes from my sonne John who hath been out at sea in verye stormy weather, but is returned safe to Portsmouth: Heer is no newes; the Duke is



gone to Portsmo<sup>th</sup>,<sup>1</sup> & 2 or 3 Londoners  
cōmitted about the Loane.<sup>2</sup> Thus hoping in  
God that we shall meet on teusdaye or  
Wensdaye next, I cōmende thee & all ours  
to the grace & blessings of the Lorde, & w<sup>th</sup>  
my duty to my good mother, & all o<sup>r</sup> lov-  
inge salutations to thy selfe, my blessings to  
o<sup>r</sup> children, & salutations to all o<sup>r</sup> friends, I  
kisse my sweet wife & rest

Thine as his owne

J: W:

LONDŌ June 15 1627.

<sup>1</sup> Buckingham's expedition for the relief of Rochelle sailed June 27th. John Winthrop, Jr. (the younger Winthrop; subsequently Governor of Connecticut), accompanied it in the capacity of secretary to one of its captains.

<sup>2</sup> Forced loan by Charles I. to support the war with France.

## XVI.

MARGARET WINTHROP TO HER HUSBAND.

(1627.)

MOST DEARE AND LOVEINGE HUSBAND,—  
I can not expres my love to you as I desire.  
in these poore livelesse lines, but I doe  
hartily wish you did see my harte how true  
and faythfull it is to you, and how much I  
doe desire to be allwayes with you. to injoy  
the sweet comfort of your presence. and  
those helps from you in sperituall and tem-  
perall dutyes w<sup>h<sup>c</sup></sup> I am so unfite to performe  
without you. It makes me to see the want  
of you and wish my selfe with you, but I  
desire wee may be gided by God in all our  
wayes who is able to derect us for the best  
and so I will wayt upon him with paciencie  
who is all sufficient for me. I shall not need  
to right much to you at this time. My  
brother Goslinge can tel you any thinge by  
word of mouth, I prayse God we are all

Most Dear and Lovinge Husband, I can not express my love to you as  
I desire in these poore humble lines, but I doe heartily wishe you did see my  
heart how true and faithfull it is to you, and how much I doe desire to be  
always with you, to ~~see~~ <sup>enjoy</sup> some comfort of your presence, and there to  
sporn you in Spirituall and temporall duties w<sup>ch</sup> I am so desirous to performe  
with out you, it makes me to see the want of you and wishe my selfe with you,  
but I desire mee may be guided by god in all our wayes, who is able to direct  
us in the best, and so I will rest your him with patience, who is all  
sufficient for me, I shall not need to write much to you at this time  
my brother Gossage can tel you any thinge by word of mouth, I praye  
god we are all heare in health, as you left vs, and are glad to heare the  
same of you, and all the rest of our friends at London, my mother and  
my selfe remember our best love to you, and all the rest, our children



heare in health as you left us, and are glad to heare the same of you and all the rest of our frends at London. My mother and my selfe remember our best love to you and all the rest. our children remember theare duty to you. and thus desirnge to be remembred in your prayers I bid my good Husband god-night, littell Samerwell<sup>1</sup> thinkes it is time for me to goe to bed, and so I beseech the Lord to keepe you in safety and us all heare. Farwell, my sweete husband.

Your obediente wife

MARGARET WINTHROPE.

<sup>1</sup> Samuel, her fourth son, now a few months old.

## XVII.

MARGARET WINTHROP TO HER HUSBAND.

(1627.)

MY MOST SWEET HUSBAND, — how dearely welcome thy kinde letter was to me I am not able to expresse. ✓ The sweetnesse of it did much refresh me. What can be more pleasinge to a wife, then to heare of the welfayre of hir best beloved, and how he is pleased with hir pore endeavours, ✓ I blush to heare my selfe commended, knowinge my owne wants; but it is your love that conceaves the best and makes all thinges seme better then they are. I wish that I may be allwayes pleasinge to thee, and that those comforts we have in each other may be dayly increaced as far as they be pleasing to God. I will use that speach to thee that Abygal did to David, I will be a servant to wash the feete of my Lord. I will doe any service whearein I may please my good Husband. I confes I cannot

doe ynough for thee, but thou art pleased to accept the will for the deede and rest contented. —

I have many resons to make me love thee whearof I will name two; first because thou lovest God, and secondly because that thou lovest me. If these to ware wantinge all the rest would be eclipsed. But I must leave this discorse and goe about my houshold affayers. I am a bad huswife to be so longe from them; but I must needs borowe a little time to talke with thee my sweet hart. The terme is more then halfe done. I hope thy businesse drawes to an end. It will be but 2 or 3 weekes before I see thee, though thay be longe ones. God wil bringe us together in his good time for w<sup>ch</sup> time I shall pray. I thanke the Lord we are all in health. Wee are very glad to heare so good Nuse of our sonne Henry.<sup>1</sup> The Lord make us thanke full for al his mercyes to ous and ours. And thus with my mother's and my owne best love to your selfe and all the rest I shal leave

<sup>1</sup> In the Barbadoes.

scriblinge. The wether being colde makes  
me make hast. Farwel my good Husband;  
the Lord kepe thee

Your obeyent wife

MARGARET WINTHROPE.

NOVEMBER 22 Groton.

I have not yet receved the box but I will  
send for it I send up a turkey and some  
chese. I pray send my sonne Foorth such a  
knife as mine is. M<sup>rs</sup> Hugen would pray you  
to by a cake for the boyes. I did dyne at  
Grotton hall yesterday thay are in helth and  
remember thear love wee did wish you theare  
but that would not bringe you and I could  
not be merry with out thee.



XVIII.

MARGARET WINTHROP TO HER HUSBAND.

(1627.)

*To my very loving Husband John Winthrope Esquire  
at Mr. Downing's house in Fleet strete,  
neare the Cundit these deliver.*

MY GOOD AND LOVINGE HUSBAND, — I did receive your kinde and loveinge letter for w<sup>ch</sup> I most hartily thanke you. I prayse God for the continuance of your health and am very sorry for the bad sucse of the Duke.<sup>1</sup> The nuse came to us before y<sup>or</sup> letters and put us in great feare. I am glad that theare is hope that John is safe. I shall thinke longe to heare more of him. The Lord fit and prepare us for what soever it shall please him to send to us to humble us with and to make us seeke to him who is onely able to helpe and deliver in all times of truble, of what kinde soever it be. The Lord is merciful: if we can put our trust in him he will not

<sup>1</sup> See xv.

faile us nor forsake us. I rejoyce to thinke the time draweth neare of y<sup>or</sup> cominge home that I may see my best beloved. I pray make hast. I hope you will not defir y<sup>or</sup> cominge longer than must needes. I expect to heare when you will have y<sup>or</sup> horses sent up this weeke. I thanke God we are all heare in health. I have bin yesterday and to day with Goodwife Cole who is now safely delivered of a daughter. And now fearinge the carier will call for my letter before I have done, I have made more hast than otherwise I woulde in testifinge my love to you, to whome I doe owe more than I am able to express. And thus with my mothers and my own best love remembred to you and the rest of our frends, beinge in hast I take my leave till some other oper-tunity. My brother Goslinge and sister remember thear love to you. Farewell my deare Husband, the Lorde keepe you and send you safe home.

Your loveinge and obedient wife,

M. W.

Goodman Cole woulde intreat you to  
by him a pound of such tobackco as you  
by for y<sup>or</sup>selfe. You shall receive by the  
carier two runlets of sider, the carage is  
payed for.

## XIX.

(1627.)

*To my deare and very lovinge Husband John  
Winthrope Esquire at Mr. Downings house in  
Fleet Street right over agaynst the Counduit  
these deliver, — London.*

MY BELOVED AND GOOD HUSBAND, — I must craue pardon for my not righting to you the last weeke. Your letter came so late to my hands upon Tuesday that I coulde not right that night, and hearinge of no other mesenger I have bin constrayned to let it alone till this weeke, and so have had the more time to consider of it. I doe ioyne with you in beseechinge the Lorde to direct our wayes and thoughts aright heerein, and that wee may submit unto his holy will in this and all other thinges, to doe that may be for his glory and the comfort of ourselues and others. I doe see yours and the rest of my frends great love and care of me and of all

ours, in that you are so mindfull of our good, w<sup>ch</sup> doeth more and more knet my affections to you. I pray God I may walke so as I may be worthy of all your loves. For the matter of which you right about, of takeinge a house at Thiselworth,<sup>1</sup> I like well in some respect, in regard of the good Minister and good people and teachinge for our children. But I must aledge one thinge, that I feare in your cominge to and fro, lest if you should be ventrus upon the water, if your passage be by water w<sup>ch</sup> I know not, it may be dangerous for you in the winter time, the wether beinge colde and the waters perilous. And so I shoulde be in continuall feare of you lest you should take any hurt. I did confir with my mother about it and she thinkes you had better take a house in the City, and so come home to your own table and familye; and I am of the same minde, but I shall allwayes submit to what you shal thinke fit.

<sup>1</sup> Now known as Isleworth; on the Thames, nearly opposite Richmond. Winthrop has some thought of removing from Groton thither for convenience of his business.

Upon the best consideration I can take, I have resolved to stay here this winter, in regard that my litle one is very yonge and the wayes very bad to remove such things as wee shall stande in nede of, and we shall leave things very unsetled, and to keepe two famylies will be very chargable to us. And so I thinke it will be our best corce to remove in the springe, and in the meane time commend it to God. It is allredy reported about the countrye that we shall remove and so it will be the lesse strange to them, because they loke for it all ready, and you are to be so much from home.

I have received y<sup>or</sup> kinde letter by my brother Goslinge for w<sup>ch</sup> I hartily thanke you and for my good sermon w<sup>ch</sup> you sent with it. You doe dayly manyfeast y<sup>or</sup> love to me and care for my spirituall good, as well as temperall, w<sup>ch</sup> is best of all. I desire of God I may chuse the better part w<sup>ch</sup> cannot be taken from me, w<sup>ch</sup> will stand me in stead when all other things fayle me. For our condishion here wee have yet M<sup>r</sup> Leys helpe

in our famylye, but he is to remove very spedily, his house beinge all-most finished, and then we shall want helpe for good exercises. The Lord in mercy upholde us and strenkthen us by his holy spirit. I cannot but with greefe beare y<sup>or</sup> longe abcence, but I hope that this will be the last time we shall be so long asunder, w<sup>ch</sup> doeth sumwhat stay and comfort me. The Lord grant I may find sweetnesse in Christ Jesus my spirituall Husband, who is alwayes with me and never fayleth me in time of neede, nor will fayle me unto the end of my life or the life to come. My good mother commends hir love to you all and thankes you for hir tobacko. She would pray you to be carefull of y<sup>or</sup> selfe that you take no colde. I desire to have my love very kindly remembred to my brother Downinge and sister, my brother Foones and sister, and all my cosins. I prayse God we continue stil in helth: our children at home remember thear duty to you. I thinke very longe to heare of our sonpes at sea. I pray God send us good nuse of them. And thus

with my best affection remembred to my  
deare Husband I take my leave and commit  
you to God.

Your faythfull and obedient wife

MARGARET WINTHROPE.



XX.

MARGARET WINTHROP TO HER HUSBAND.

LOVINGE AND MOST DEARE HUSBAND, —  
Now in this solytary and uncomfotable time  
of your longe absence, I have no other meanes  
to shew my love but in these poore fruts  
of my pen, with w<sup>ch</sup> I am not able to expresse  
my love as I desire, but I shall endeavor  
allwaies to make my duty knowne to you in  
some measure though not answeareable to  
your deserts and love. Although it pleseth  
God to part us for a time, I hope he will  
bringe us together againe and so provide that  
we may not be often asunder, if it may be for  
our good and his glory; and now I thinke  
longe to heare of thee and of your safe  
cominge to London. I will not looke for  
any longe letters this terme because I pittie  
y<sup>or</sup> poore hande;<sup>1</sup> if I had it heere I would

<sup>1</sup> Winthrop is suffering from a sore or hurt in his right hand.

make more of it than ever I did, and bynde it up very softly for fear of hurting it. But I doubt not but you have better helps. I thanke God we are all heare in health, onely little Sam, who hath bin very sick, but I hope he will doe well againne. I am glad I did not weane him for he will now take nothing but the brest. Thus it pleaseth the Lord to exercise us with one affliction after another in love; lest we should forget our selves and love this world too much, and not set our affections on heaven wheare all true happiness is for ever. I thinke to right to thee the latter end of this weeke by M<sup>r</sup> Brand, and so I will now rite the lesse. I receved a letter from my sonne John, I pray tel him I thanke him hartly for it and will take some other time to rite to him though I cannot now. Joseph Cole is come home, & thus with my mothers and my owne best love to you and the rest of our frends, I commit you to the Lord and rest

Your Obedient Wife

MARGARET WINTHROP.

MAY 1, 1628.

I did receive a speach of S<sup>r</sup> John Elliott<sup>1</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> I thinke M<sup>r</sup> Borros sent you, so I have not sent it up, thinkinge you may meet with the same at London. Forth and Mary and the rest of our children remember theare duty to you, and theare love to theare brother John and all thear cosins.

<sup>1</sup> In Parliament no doubt, where the battle between King and Commons over the question of Tonnage and Poundage is at this time going on.

## XXI.

JOHN WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

(1628.)

[In an extant journal of Winthrop, styled "Experiencia," he records under date of December, 1628: "At London in the ende of mich. terme, I fell into a dangerous hote malign<sup>t</sup> feaver, wherein the Lord shewed me exceeding much mercye," — with details added which identify the place of this letter and the next.]

MY SWEET WIFE, — I can now no longer dissemble w<sup>th</sup> thee, & I blesse o<sup>r</sup> most gracious & heavenly father, in o<sup>r</sup> most holy Lo: Jesus Christ, that I may yet rather tell thee how I have been, than to have feared thee w<sup>th</sup> the relation of my condition, when it was uncertaine what the issue would be: I have had an ague these 8: or 9: dayes. I cañot saye it is quite gone, but I prayse God it is so well abated, as I hope to be abroad againe over a fewe dayes (if God will). I am heere amonge such lovinge freinds, as will suffer me to want nothings, especially the Lord beinge

pleased to be w<sup>th</sup> me allso in the favo<sup>r</sup> & light of his countenance ; yet were it not winter, I could want thee ; but (my sweet wife) have a little more patience & God will restore me to thee soone : I must persuade, & chardge thee, not to thinke of co<sup>m</sup>inge up, for, if it should befall thee other wise than well, it would be worse to me than all this, & much more. Writing is now wearinesse ; I leave thee to supply all duty, love etc. Praye for me ; the Lord blesse thee & all o<sup>rs</sup>. I kisse thee — farewell.

THIS THURSDAY EVENINGE.

## XXII.

MARGARET WINTHROP TO HER HUSBAND.

(1628.)

[Margaret was an obedient wife, but in spite of the injunction laid upon her in the letter foregoing, she had set out at once for London, though it was winter. Her return home was, perhaps, hastened by word of the sickness of her oldest boy referred to in the following.)

*To my very loving Husband John Winthrop Esq.  
at Mr. Downings.*

MY MOST DEARE AND LOVEINGE HUSBAND:  
I doe blesse and prayse God for the continuance of your health, and for the safe delivery of my good sister Downinge; it was very welcom Nuse to us. I thanke the Lord wee are all heare reasonably well. My pore Stephen is up to day. Amye<sup>1</sup> hath had a very sore ague but is well againe. I hope the Lord will heare our prayers and be pleased to stay his hand in this visitation,

<sup>1</sup> The maid-servant who had accompanied her to London; taken ill on the journey back to Groton.

w<sup>ch</sup> if he please to doe we shall have great cause of thankfulness: but I desire in this and all other things to submit unto his holy will; it is the Lord, let him doe what semeth good in his owne eyse. He will doe nothinge but that shall be for our good if we had harts to trust in him, & all shall be for the best what so ever it shall please him to exercise us withall. He wounds & he can heale. He hath never fayled to doe us good, & now he will not shake us off, but continue the same God still that he hath bin heare to fore. The Lord sanctify unto us what soever it shall please him to send unto us, that we may be the better for it & furthered in our corce to heaven. I am sorye for the hard condishion of Rochell: the Lord helpe them & fite for them & then none shall prevayle against them or overcome them. In vaine they fite that fite against the Lorde, who is a myty god & will destroye all his enimydes. And now my deare husband I have nothinge but my dearest affections to send thee — with many thanks for thy kinde letters, prayinge

you to except a little for a great deale : my will is good but that I want abilite how to show & expresse it to thee as I desire. I pray remember me to my brothers & sisters, & tel my brother Foones I thanke him for the thinges he sent, & so I bid my good husband farewell & commite him to God.

Your loveinge & obedient wife,

MARGARET WINTHROPE.

I send up a turkey & 2 capons & a cheese :  
the carier is payde.



XXIII.

JOHN WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

MY DEARE WIFE, — I received thy most lovinge & wellcome Lettre, & doe heartyly reioyce & blesse oʒ heavenly father, acknowledging his most gracious providence, & great love towards us, as in all other thinges, so in this mercy, in bringing thee home in safty, & preservinge all oʒ family in peace to thy com̄inge: we see how faithfull & true he is in all his promises. O that we could make use of all oʒ experience to relye more upon him, & cast oʒ owne cares upon him, caringe onely to please & serve him: I am sorrye for Amye her sicknesse, but praysed be God, who hath disposed so well of it, that the trouble is fallen in oʒ owne house, for it would have been far more burdensome & inconvenient if it had fallen heer: I doubt not of thy care of her, that she may want neither meanes nor attendance, & I trust the Lord will restore her againe in due tyme. I prayse the Lord, I am now growne indif-

ferent well, & doe gather strength daylye, & doe hope (through his mercy) we shall have a happy meetinge erelonge, for w<sup>ch</sup>, & for the continuance of all other blessinges (especially those w<sup>ch</sup> concerne the good of o<sup>r</sup> soules), let us be constant in prayer, & in a carefull endeav<sup>r</sup> to walke in all well pleasinge before him. Remember my duty to my good mother, my blessinge to all o<sup>r</sup> children, & kinde Salut<sup>s</sup> to all o<sup>r</sup> freinds particularly at Groton Hall & to M<sup>r</sup> Leigh; thanke him for his kind & Christian Lettre: O<sup>r</sup> freinds heer are all in health & desire to be remembered to you all: for newes I referre you to my neighbo<sup>r</sup> Newton: we have received all the thinges you sent, my sister & my selfe thanke thee for them. I will followe thy Counsell, & rest in thy love for as kinde acceptance of these, as thy pretye sweet short Lettre had w<sup>th</sup> me, so I kisse my sweet wife & comēd thee & all o<sup>rs</sup> to o<sup>r</sup> most mercifull Lord & heavenly father in Christ; so I kisse my sweet wife & rest

Thy faithfull husband JO: WINTHROP.

JAN<sup>y</sup> 22, 1628 [1629].

XXIV.

JOHN WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

MY GOOD WIFE, — Although I wrote to thee last week by the Carrier of Hadlygh yet havinge so fitt opportunity I must needs write to thee againe, for I doe esteeme one litle sweet shorte Lre of thine (such as the last was) to be well worthy 2 : or 3 : from me. How it is w<sup>th</sup> us these bearers can informe thee, so as I may write the lesse. They<sup>1</sup> were married on Saturday last : & intende to staye w<sup>th</sup> thee till towarde the ende of the Terme ; for it wilbe yet 6 weekes before they can take their voyage. Labour to keepe my sonne at home as much as thou canst especially from Hadleigh. I beganne this Lre to thee yesterdaye at 2 : of the clocke thinkinge to have been large, but was so taken up by companye & businessse as I could gett but hither by this morninge. It greives

<sup>1</sup> Son Henry and his cousin Elisabeth Fones.

me that I have not libtye to make better expression of my Love to thee, who art more deare to me than all earthly thinges, but I will endeavour that my prayers may supply the defect of my pen, w<sup>ch</sup> wilbe of best use to us both, in as much as the favour & blessinge of o<sup>r</sup> God is better then all thinges besides. My trust is in his mercye, that upon the faith of his gracious promise, & the experience of his fatherly goodness, he wilbe o<sup>r</sup> God to the ende, to carrye us alonge through this course of o<sup>r</sup> pilgrimage, in the peace of a good conscience, & that in the ende of o<sup>r</sup> race, we shall safely arive at the haven of eternall happinesse. We see how frayle & vaine all earthly good thinges are. There is no meanes to avoide the losse of them in death, nor the bitterness w<sup>ch</sup> accompanieth them in the cares & troubles of this life; onely the fruition of Jesus Christ, & the hope of heaven can give us true comfort & rest. the Lord teach us wisdome, to prepare for o<sup>r</sup> change, & to lay up o<sup>r</sup> treasure there, where o<sup>r</sup> abidinge must be for

ever. I know thou lookest for troubles heer, & when one Affliction is over, to meete w<sup>th</sup> another, but remember what o<sup>r</sup> Saivo<sup>r</sup> tells us, BE OF GOOD COMFORTE I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD. See his goodnesse, he hath conquered o<sup>r</sup> enemies before hande, & by Faith in him, we shall assuredly prevaile over them all. Therefore (my sweet wife) rayse up thy heart, & be not dismayed at the crosses thou meetest w<sup>th</sup> in familie affairs, or otherwise, but still flye to him, who will take up thy burden for thee. Goe thou on cheerfully in obedience to his holy will, in the course he hath sett thee. Peace shall come. Thou shalt rest as in thy bedd,— & in the meane tyme he will not faile nor forsake thee. But my tyme is past, I must leave thee. So I comende thee and all thine to the gracious protection & blessinge of the Lord. all o<sup>r</sup> freinds heere salute thee, salute thou ours from me. Farewell my good wife. I kisse & love thee w<sup>th</sup> the kindest affection & rest

Thy faithfull husbände

JO: WINTHROP

APRIL: 28, 1629.

## XXV.

MARGARET WINTHROP TO HER HUSBAND.

(1629.)

*To my very loving Husband,  
John Winthrope Esquire, theese deliver.*

MOST LOVINGE AND GOOD HUSBAND, — I have receved your letters. the true tokens of your love and care of my good now in your absence as well as when you are present. It makes me thinke that sayinge falce out of sight out of minde. I am sure my hart and thoughts are all wayes neere you to doe you good and not evill all the dayse of my life . . . I hope through Gods blessinge y<sup>or</sup> paynes will not be all together lost w<sup>h<sup>c</sup></sup> you bestow upon me in rightinge. Those serious thoughts of your owne w<sup>h<sup>c</sup></sup> you sent me did make a very good supply in stead of a sarmon. I shall often reade them and desyre to be of God's famyle, to whom so many blessinges belonge, and pray that I

may not be one separated from God, whose conscience is alwayes accusinge them. I shall not neede to righte to you of any thing this weke. My sonne and brother Goslinge can tell you how we are. And I shall thinke longe for y<sup>or</sup> cominge home. And thus, with my best love to you, I beseech the Lord to send us a comfortable meetinge in his good time. I commit you to the Lord

Your lovinge and obedient wife

MARGARET WINTHROPE

## XXVI.

## JOHN WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

[The following is one of the letters spoken of in the preface, of which the originals are lost. It is therefore reproduced in the modernized, and also incomplete, form in which, as there explained, it was printed in 1825.]

THE largeness and truth of my love to thee makes me always mindful of thy welfare, and sets me on work to begin to write before I hear from thee. The very thought of thee affords me many a kind refreshing: What will then the enjoying of thy sweet society, which I prize above all worldly comforts?

Yet, such is the folly and misery of man, as he is easily brought to contemn the true good he enjoys, and to neglect the best things, which he holds only in hope, and both upon an ungrounded desire of some seeming good, which he promiseth to himself. And if it be thus with us, that are Christians, who have a sure word to direct



us, and the holy faith to live by, what is the madness and bondage of those who are out of Christ? Oh! the riches of Christ! Oh! the sweetness of the word of grace! It ravisheth my soul in the thought hereof, so as, when I apprehend but a glimpse of the dignity and felicity of a Christian, I can hardly persuade my heart to hope for so great happiness. Let men talk what they will of riches, honors, pleasures, etc.; let us have Christ crucified, and let them take all besides. For, indeed, he who hath Christ, hath all things with him; for he enjoyeth an all-sufficiency, which makes him abundantly rich in poverty, honorable in the lowest abasements, full of joy and consolation in the sharpest afflictions, living in death, and possessing eternity in this vale of misery. Therefore bless we God for his free and infinite mercy, in bestowing Christ upon us. Let us entertain and love him with our whole hearts; let us trust in him, and cleave to him with denial of ourselves, and all things besides, and account our portion the

best in the world; that so, being strengthened and comforted in his love, we may put forth ourselves to improve our life and means to do him service. There are very few hours left of this day of our labor: then comes the night, when we shall take our rest. In the morning we shall awake unto glory and immortality, when we shall have no more work to do; no more pains or grief to endure; no more care, fear, want, reproach, or infirmity; no more sin, corruption, or temptation.

I am forced to patch up my letters, here a piece and there another. I have now received thine, the kindly fruits of thy most sweet affections. Blessed be the Lord for the welfare of thyself and all our family.

I received letters from my two sons with thee. Remember my love and blessing to them, and to my daughter Winthrop, for whose safety I give the Lord thanks. I have so many letters to write, as I cannot write to them now. Our friends here are in reasonable health, and desire to be kindly

remembered to you all. Commend me to all my good friends, my loving neighbors goodman Cole and his wife, to whom we are always much beholden. I will remember M—— her gown and petticoat, and the children's girdles. So, with my most affectionate desires of thy welfare, and my blessing to all our children, I kiss my sweet wife, and commend thee and all ours to the gracious protection of our heavenly Father, and rest

Thy faithful husband,

still present with thee in his most unkind absence,

JO. WINTHROP.

MAY 8, 1629.

## XXVII.

## JOHN WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

[The period of the Puritan emigration to Massachusetts, of which Winthrop will be the foremost leader, is now not far off; but though he is forced to think of quitting unhappy England, there is, as yet, nothing to show that his eye is turning to America.]

MY GOOD WIFE, — I prayse the Lord for the wished newes of thy welfare & of the rest of our companie, & for the continuance of ours heer: it is a great favour, that we may enjoye so much comfort & peace in these so evill & declining tymes, & when the increasinge of our sinnes gives us so great cause to looke for some heavye scourge & Judgment to be com̄inge upon us: The Lorde hath admonished, threatened, corrected, & astonished us, yet we growe worse & worse, so as his Spirit will not allwayes strive with us, he must needs give waye to his furye at last: He hath smitten all the other Churches before our eyes, & hath made them to drinke of the bitter cuppe of tribulatiō, even unto

death. We sawe this, & humbled not ourselves, to turne from our evill wayes, but have provoked him more than all the nations rounde about us: therefore he is turninge the Cuppe towards us also, & because we are the last, our portion must be, to drinke the verye dreggs which remaine: My dear wife, I am verily persuaded, God will bringe some heavy Affliction upon this lande, & that speedilye: but be of good comfort, the hardest that can come shall be a meanes to mortifie this bodye of corruption, which is a thousand tymes more dangerous to us then any outward tribulation, & to bring us into nearer com̄union with our Lord Jesus Christ, & more assurance of his kingdome. If the Lord seeth it wilbe good for us, he will provide a shelter & a hidinge place for us & others, as a Zoar for Lott, Sarephtah for his prophet, &c: if not, yet he will not forsake us: though he correct us with the roddes of men, yet if he take not his mercye & lovinge kindnesse from us we shalbe safe. He onely is allsufficient; if we have him, we have all

things: if he seeth it not good to cutt our portion, in these thinges belowe, equal to the largenesse of our desires, yet if he please to frame our mindes to the portion he allotts us, it wilbe as well for us.

I thanke thee for thy kinde letter. I am going to Westminster, & must heere breake off. I would have my sonne H——<sup>1</sup> to be heere on teusdaye that I may goe out of towne on Wensdaye or thursdaye next. If Marye her gowne be made I will send it downe by Smith this weeke, or els next, with other thinges: all our freinds heer are indifferent well, & desire to be comēded to thee, so with my hearty salut<sup>s</sup> to all our freinds with thee, my love & blessinge to my sonnes & daughters, in very much hast, I ende & comēde thee & all ours to the gracious protectiō & blessinge of the Lorde — so I kisse my sweet wife, & thinke longe till I see thee — farewell.

Thine

JO: WINTHROP.

I thanke thee for our Turkye.

MAY 15. 1629.

<sup>1</sup> Henry, lately returned from Barbadoes.

XXVIII.

JOHN WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

*To my very lovinge wife Mrs. Winthrop  
at Groton in Suffk.*

Thou mayest mervaile that thou haddest no Letter from me by my Sonne, but I knowe thou wilt not impute it to any decaye of love, or neglect of thee; who art more pretious to me than any other thinge in this worlde; but the uncertainty of his io'nye, & the dislike of his ill course, which made me estrange my selfe towards him. I prayse God I came safe hither, & am in good health as all our friends heere are (who desire to be kindly remembered to thee). I hope my sonne<sup>1</sup> hath putt awaye his man, for he promised he would, & that he would amende his life: I beseech the Lorde to give him grace so to doe; otherwise he will soone be undone. I am still more confirmed in that course w<sup>ch</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Henry, the wayward boy of the family.

I propounded to thee, & so are my brother & Sister D:<sup>1</sup> the good Lo: direct & blesse us in it.

I received a lettre from Forthes Tutor,<sup>2</sup> wherein he complaynes of his longer absence, w<sup>ch</sup> he findes doth him much hurte both in his learninge & manners, & wisheth me to sende him speedylie, for he sayth he hath provided him a chamber in the Colledge. I praye thee speake with him, & doe as may be fittest, for if he intendes not the ministerye, I have no great minde to sende him any more; if he doth, let him goe so soone as he can. I have now received thy sweet lettre, w<sup>ch</sup> I heartyly thanke thee for, & doe with all thankfullnesse acknowledge the goodnesse of the Lord towards us in his blessinge upon thee & all ours, which I shall labour the continuance of to the best of my power, & so farr as my poore prayers can give furtherance. I am sorye I cannot write to thee as I desire, but thou wilt beare with me the

<sup>1</sup> Downing.

<sup>2</sup> Forth is an undergraduate of Emanuel College, Cambridge.



rather for that I thinke my Office<sup>1</sup> is gone, so as I shall not wronge thee so much with my absence as I have done. I will send thee some pepper in my sonnes boxe, & so with my blessinge to my sonnes & daughters, salutations to all our good friendes, & my most intire Affections to thy selfe, I comēd thee to the grace & blessinge of the Lord & rest

Thy faithfull husband

JO: WINTHROP.

Thou shalt receive in the boxe a book of the newes this weeke.

My sister Fones & her children will be with thee after the Terme.

JUNE 5. 1629.

Sende me no linnen for I have enough heere.

<sup>1</sup> The office of Attorney of the Court of Wards and Liveries, held by Winthrop since about 1623.

## XXIX.

MARGARET WINTHROP TO HER HUSBAND.

*To hir very lovinge Husban John Winthrope Esq<sup>r</sup>  
these deliver.*

MY DEARE HUSBAND, — Havinge so fit oportunity I cannot omit it, but rite a word or two to thee that you may understand of our healths. I prayse God we are all well, and I think very longe for y<sup>or</sup> returne home. I hope to hear this weeke when you will come home. I have received y<sup>or</sup> sweet letter, and thanke thee for it. My sonne<sup>1</sup> will be at London before the end of the terme: he and his wife purpose to goe to my brothers Tyndall some time this weeke and I thinke he will goe from thence to London. I may chance to goe alonge with them, my daughter beinge a stranger thear: if I go I shall not right ainy more this weeke without I can send from thence. Thou seast how bold I am to take leave to goe abrode in thy abcence, but

<sup>1</sup> Step-son Henry again.

I presume upon thy love and concent, or elce I wolde not doe it. I hope I shall take order that all thinges shalbe wel looked to for the time I stay. I will not trouble thee with relatinge any thinge to thee, but leave all maters till I see thee. I loth to be thus short in rightinge to thee, but that it is night and I must send awaye my letter, and part with my beloved and good Husban, and have nothings but my best love and all due respect to send him which my pen can not exprese or my tounge utter, but I will endeavor to shew it as well as I can to thee, and to all that love thee. I pray remember my love to brother and sister Downinge, sister Fones. I hope I shall see them all heare this sommer, and thus I must leave thee and bid my sweet Husban good night and commit him to God.

Your faythful and obedient wife

MARGARET WINTHROPE.

## XXX.

JOHN WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

[As in letter xxvii., the probable departure from England soon is assumed, but whither is uncertain still.]

MY GOOD WIFE, — Blessed be the Lord o<sup>r</sup> God for his great mercye still continued to us & o<sup>rs</sup>. O that we could consider aright of his kindnesse, that we might knowe o<sup>r</sup> happinesse in being the children of such a father, & so tenderly beloved of the All sufficient, but we must needs complaine. Oh this flesh, this fraile sinfull flesh, that obscures the beauty & brightnesse of so great glorie & goodness! I thanke thee for thy most kinde & sweet Lettre, the stampe of that amiable affection of a most lovinge wife: I assure thee, thy labour of love (tho' it be very great) shall not be lost, so far as the prayers & endeavours of a faithfull husbände can tende to requitall. But I must limitt the length of my desires to the shortnesse of my

leisure, otherwise I should not knowe when to ende. I trust, in the Lorde, the tyme of o' wished meetinge wilbe shortly, but my occasions are such as thou must have paciencie till the ende of next weeke, though I shall strive to shorten it, if possible I maye: and after that, I hope, we shall never parte so longe againe, till we parte for a better meetinge in heaven. But where we shall spende the rest of o' short tyme I knowe not: the Lorde, I trust, will direct us in mercye; my comfort is that thou art willinge to be my companion in what place or conditiō soevere, in weale or in woe. Be it what it may, if God be w<sup>th</sup> us, we need not feare; his favour, & the kingdome of heaven wilbe alike & happinesse enough to us & o<sup>rs</sup> in all places. —<sup>1</sup> is in London, but I have seen him but twice, I knowe not what he doth nor what he intendeth, I mourne for his sinnes & the miserye that he will soone bringe upon him-

<sup>1</sup> The original is torn here and the name lost; but if, as one must guess, it is the perverse Henry, the strain of reference to him will henceforth be less unpleasant.

selfe & his wife. Our freinds here are all in health (God be prayed) & desire to be comēded to thee, so w<sup>th</sup> my love & blessinge to o<sup>r</sup> children, salutatiō to all o<sup>r</sup> freinds, my brother & sister Gostlin &c, I comēde thee to the good Lorde & kisse my sweet wife & rest

Thy faithfull husband

JO: WINTHROP.

JUNE 22. 1629.

XXXI.

JOHN WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

[Since the last letter circumstances have determined Winthrop to join the Massachusetts Colony enterprise.]

OCTOB. 9: 1629.

MY SWEET WIFE, — We heare yet of no lettres from Groton, w<sup>ch</sup> makes us to mervaile, & we shall longe to heare how you all doe. I prayse God we are all heere in health, but we are not like to gett out of towne before mundaye señight: I wish my sonne John were heere before but that it wilbe verye chargeable to keepe horses so longe in towne; but if he can light upon any good company, he maye come on mundaye or teusday next, & John may bringe up the other horses on Saterdaye.

“ I sende thee herew<sup>th</sup> some papers concerninge N: E: when thou lookest upon them, thou wilt beare w<sup>th</sup> the brevitye of my lettres: I would have Forth reade the booke

to thee: for the loose papers let him write them out better, & then reade them. I would have him copye out so much of that in the booke, as is from the hande in the [*blank*] leafe to the ende, & shewe it to Mr. Mott, my neighbo<sup>r</sup> Childe & others that have a minde to N: E: especially that gracious letre in the ende:<sup>1</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> I wish thee & the rest to reade seariously over.

“ This morninge I received thy sweet letre; I heartyly blesse o<sup>r</sup> good God for the wellfare of thy selfe & all o<sup>r</sup> familie, & doe much reioyce in thy love: I shalbe as loth to leave my kinde wife behinde me, as she wilbe to staye; but we must leave all to the Lords good providence. I send downe by Jervais two peeces of Lokerum, 26: elles of one peece, & 18: of the other, cloth for a sute & Cloake for Forth: & for a night gowne for thy selfe, w<sup>th</sup> bookes for the children. Lett me knowe what triminge I shall sende for thy gowne.

<sup>1</sup> A letter, it is probable, of the Rev. Francis Higginson, who had reached Salem, Mass., the previous June, with a reinforcement for Endicott's settlement there.



My sonne Hen : wilbe at Groton soone;  
he is like to putt of his business in Bar-  
bethe<sup>s</sup> & staye to goe to N : E : the occasiō  
comes from my sonne John, as by this lettre  
I send you may appeare. The good Lo :  
dispose all for the best in his rich mercye.  
The Lord blesse thee (my sweet wife) & all  
o<sup>r</sup> children & familye. My brother & sister  
salute thee, & all thy Companye. Farewell  
my good wife,

Thy faithfull husband

J: W:

## XXXII.

[1629.]

MARGARET WINTHROP TO HER HUSBAND.

MY DEARE HUSBAND, — I received thy sweet and most welcome letter very late this munday night, and doe blesse God for thy helth and welfayre. I have hearde reade the Nuse from N : E : and much reioyce in it. The good Lord still continue his mercy to that plantation, and blesse us in our intended purpose that way. We see how the Lord giveth us his warent and daly incoragement that way; wee may I hope trust him for a blessinge upon us and ours: For my sonne H. his stay from Barbatus, if his pretence be good, it had bin pittye he should have gon to have indangered the good of his soule, by beinge partaker of the sines of the rest of that wicked Company: the Lord I hope hath rowght some good worke in him, which I beseech him to confirme in his due tyme. I

have read my daughters good letter to him, and shall love hir the better whilst I live. It is now late and bed time and I must bid thee good night before I am wilinge, for I could finde in my hart to sit and talke with thee all night. Though I am a bad wacher, I could wel spare a nights sleepe to doe any thinge for thee. I wish my sister F. ware at home, for Mary is sick and I feare it will prove the smale poxe or mesels or such like; if she should doe otherwise then well in hir mothers abcence, it would be a great grefe to me, but I leave to y<sup>or</sup> decrecion whether you will tell hir of it or no, and so I bid thee farewell: the Lord keepe thee

thy unworthy wife

M. W.

I have not yet received the things you sent, when I see the cloth I will send word what triminge will serve. I hope you shall not nede to tell my sister Fones of M. sicknesse, it will prove but the meseles at the most.

## XXXIII.

GOVERNOR WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

MY DEARE WIFE, — I am verye sorye that I am forced to feed thee w<sup>th</sup> lettres, when my presence is thy due, & so much desired: but my trust is, that he who hath so disposed of it, will supply thee w<sup>th</sup> patience, & better comforte in the want of him whom thou so much desirest: The Lord is able to doe this, & thou mayst expect it, for he hath promised it. Seeinge he calls me into his worke, he will have care of thee & all o<sup>rs</sup> & o<sup>r</sup> affaires in my absence: therefore I must sende thee to him, for all thou lackest: goe boldly (sweet wife) to the throne of Grace; if anythinge trouble thee, acquainte the Lord w<sup>th</sup> it; tell him, he hath taken thy husband from thee, pray him to be a husband to thee, a father to thy children, a master to thy householde, thou shall finde him faithfull: thou art not guilty of my departure, thou hast not driven me

awaye by any unkindnesse, or want of dutye, therefore thou mayst challenge protection & blessinge of him.

I prayse the Lorde I am in health & cheerfull in my course, wherein I find God graciously present, so as we expect, he wilbe pleased to direct & prosper us. We have great advantage because we have many prayers.

Bee not discouraged (deare heart) though I sett thee no tyme of my returne; I hope it shall not be longe, & I will make no more staye then I needs must.

So it is that it hath pleased the Lorde to call me to a further trust in this businesse of the Plantation, then either I expected or finde myselfe fitt for, (beinge chosen by the Company to be their Governor). The onely thinge that I have comforte of in it is, that heerby I have assurance that my charge is of the Lorde & that he hath called me to this worke: O that he would give me an heart now to answeare his goodnesse to me, & the expectation of his people! I never had more

need of prayers, helpe me (deare wife) & lett us sett o<sup>r</sup> hearts to seeke the Lorde, & cleave to him sincerely.

My brother & sisters salute you all: my sonne remembers his dutye to thee, & salutations to all the rest. Co<sup>m</sup>ende me kindly to all o<sup>r</sup> freinds at Groton hall, & to M<sup>r</sup> Leigh & his wife, my neighbo<sup>r</sup> Cole & his wife, o<sup>r</sup> freinds at Castleins & all that love us. So the Lorde blesse thee & all o<sup>r</sup> children & companye. So I kisse my sweet wife & rest  
thy faithfull husband

JO: WINTHROP.

OCTOB: 20 1629.

I would faine knowe if thou shalt be like to goe w<sup>th</sup> me, for thou shalt never have so good opportunity. Let John enq<sup>r</sup> out 2: or 3: Carpenters: & knowe how many of o<sup>r</sup> neighbo<sup>rs</sup> will goe, that we may provide shippes for them.

XXXIV.

[1630.]

MARGARET WINTHROP TO HER HUSBAND.

MY DEARE HUSBAND, — I knowe not how to expresse my love to thee or my desyres of thy wished welfayre, but my hart is well knowne to thee, which will make relation of my affections though they be smalle in apperance: my thoughts are nowe on our great change and alteration of our corce heare, which I beseech the Lord to blesse us in, & my good Husband cheare up thy hart in the expectacion of Gods goodnesse to us, & let nothinge dismay or discourage thee; if the Lord be with us who can be against us: my grefe is the feare of stayinge behinde thee, but I must leave all to the good providence of God. I thank the Lord wee are all heare in reasonable good health, I received a letter since you went from my sonne John, w<sup>ch</sup> brout good Nuse from Nue E: I pray thanke

him for it, I wil rite to him if I have time,  
& thus with my best respect to thy selfe,  
brother & sister D: I commit you to God  
and rest

Your faythfull wife

MARGARET WINTHROPE.



XXXV.

GOVERNOR WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

*To my verye lovinge Wife M<sup>rs</sup> Winthrop the elder  
at Groton, Suff<sup>s</sup>.*

MY DEARE WIFE, MY CHIEFE IOYE IN THIS WORLD, — Blessed be the Lord o<sup>r</sup> good God that still keepeth us in o<sup>r</sup> absence & maketh it an occasion of the trueth & fervencye of our affections each to other: He that is pleased so graciously to manifest himselfe to us in o<sup>r</sup> preparatiōs to the worke in hande, will not faile to be w<sup>th</sup> us in it, & to take care of ours while we shalbe absent from them. Be of good comfort, (my sweet Love), he is thy God, he hath sealed thee for his owne, & will not forsake thee: He made us for his service, & if he will make us [in] any part instrum<sup>ts</sup> for his glorye, it matters not what we may suffer: the kingdome of Heaven will make amendes for all. I propose (God willinge) to be w<sup>th</sup> thee on Saturdaye: till then

farewell. We all salute thee & o' good sister  
Fones & the rest. Comēde my love &  
blessings to all o' children & cosins. Tell  
my 2 sonnes I received their l<sup>tes</sup> & thank  
them for their care of me. So I kisse my  
sweet wife & rest

Thy faithfull husband

JO: WINTHROP.

JAN<sup>y</sup> 22

1629 [1630].

XXXVI.

GOVERNOR WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

[The second of the three letters, which, for the reason given in the preface, cannot be reproduced in the old orthography.]

MY DEAR WIFE, — I praise God, we came safe to London, and continue in health, and found all well here. Thus it pleaseth the Lord to follow us with his blessings, that we might love him again. I find here so much to do, as I doubt I shall not come down these three weeks; but, thou mayest be sure, I will stay no longer than my occasions shall enforce me.

I must now begin to prepare thee for our long parting, which grows very near. I know not how to deal with thee by arguments; for if thou wert as wise and patient as ever woman was, yet it must needs be a great trial to thee, and the greater, because I am so dear to thee. That which I must chiefly

look at in thee, for a ground of contentment, is thy godliness. If now the Lord be thy God, thou must show it by trusting in him, and resigning thyself quietly to his good pleasure. If now Christ be thy Husband, thou must show what sure and sweet intercourse is between him and thy soul, when it shall be no hard thing for thee to part with an earthly, mortal, infirm husband for his sake. The enlargement of thy comfort in the communion of the love and sweet familiarity of thy most holy, heavenly, and undefiled Lord and Husband, will abundantly recompense whatsoever want or inconvenience may come by the absence of the other. The best course is to turn all our reasons and discourse into prayers; for he only can help, who is Lord of sea and land, and hath sole power of life and death.

It is now near eleven of the clock, and I shall write again ere long (if God will). The good Lord bless thee and all thy company. My broth. and sister salute you all. Commend my hearty love to my good sister F.

and all the rest. Tell her I wrote to Mr. Dummer so soon as I came to town; and, if I can, I will speak with him, before John go down. So I kiss my sweet wife, and rest

Thy frail, yet faithful husband,

JO. WINTHROP.

JANUARY 31, 1629 [1630].

## XXXVII.

MARGARET WINTHROP TO HER HUSBAND.

MY MOST DEARE HUSBAND, — I should not now omite any opertunity of rightinge to thee, concideringe I shall not longe have thee to right unto. But by reson of my unfitnesse at this time I must intreat thee to except of a fewe lines from me and not to imput it to any want of love or neglect of my duty to thee to whome I owe more than I shall ever be able to expresse. My request nowe shalbe to the Lord to prosper thee in thy voyage and inable thee and fit thee for it, and give all graces and giufts for such employ<sup>ts</sup> as he shall call thee to. I trust God will once more bring us together before you goe that we may see each, other with gladnesse, and take sollem leave. till wee through the goodnesse of our God shall meete in N: E: which wilbe a joyfull day to us. I send thee here inclosed letters from

M: P.<sup>1</sup> My good sister F. remembers hir love to you — and it semeth hath ritten so earnestly to M: P. not to come that he doth for beare to come till he heare more. I thinke she would have you send him word to come as sone as he can beinge desyrus to speake with him before you goe; but it must not come from hir selfe for she wil right to him to stay still. She sayth that he shall not neede to provide any thinge but a house for she will furnish it hir selfe. And thus with my best wishes to God for thy health and welfayre .I take my leave and rest

thy faythful and obedient wife

MARGARET WINTHROPE

JENUARY the last [1630]

<sup>1</sup> The Rev. Henry Painter, subsequently member of the Westminster Assembly of Divines, who is making overtures of marriage — destined to succeed, not, as appears, by his unaided efforts — to Mistress Priscilla Fones, second wife, and now widow, of Winthrop's brother-in-law Fones.

## XXXVIII.

(1630.)

MARGARET WINTHROP TO HER HUSBAND.

*To hir very lovinge and deare Husban,**John Winthrope Esq<sup>r</sup> at M<sup>r</sup>. Downings house**in Fleet strete neere the Conдите these deliver.*

MY DEARE HUSBAND, — I knowe thou art desyrus to heere often from us w<sup>ch</sup> makes me take plesure in rightinge to thee, and in relatinge my true affections to thee and desyers of your wished welfayer. The good Lord be ever with thee and prosper all thy affayres [in] this great and waytty business w<sup>ch</sup> is now in hand, that it may be for the glory of his most holy name & furtherance of his gossell. But I must part with my most deare Husban, w<sup>ch</sup> is a very hard tryall for me to undergoe. If the Lord doe not sup-  
porte and healpe me in it, I shalbe unable to beare it. I have now received thy kinde letter w<sup>ch</sup> I cannot reade without sheding a



great many teares, but I will resine thee and give thee into the hands of the almyti God, who is allsoficient for thee, whome I trust will keepe thee and prosper thee in the way thou art to goe. If thou walke before him in truth and uprightnesse of hart, he will never fayle of his promise to thee. Therefore my good Husban chere up thy hart in God and in the expectation of his favors and blessings in this thy change, with asurance of his love in Christ Jesus our Lord for our change heereafter, when we shall live with him in glory for ever. As for me his most unworthy servant I will cleave to my Husband Christ as neere as I can; though my infirmytyes be great, he is able to heale them and wil not forsake me in the time of neede. I know I shall have thy prayers to God for me that what is wanting in thy presence may be supplied by the comfort of God's spirit. I am now full of passion, haveinge nuly received thy letter & not able to right much. My sonne F. will right about other busines. I beginne to fear I shall see thee no more

before thou goest, w<sup>ch</sup> I should be very sorry for and earnestly intreat thee that thou wilt com once more downe if it be possible. And thus with my due respect to thyselfe, brother and sister D., thanks for my linnens to my sister, my love to my sonnes, I commit thee to God and rest

Your faythful and obedient wife

MARGARET WINTHROPE.

My good sister F. remembers hir love.

XXXIX.

GOVERNOR WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

*To my very lovinge Wife M<sup>rs</sup> Winthrop the elder  
at Groton, in Suffk.*

MY SWEET WIFE, — Thy love is such to me, & so great is the bonde betweene us, that I should neglect all others to hold correspondencye of lettres w<sup>th</sup> thee: but I knowe thou art willinge to dispense w<sup>th</sup> somewhat of thine owne right, to give me lib<sup>ty</sup> to satisfie my other occasions for the present, w<sup>ch</sup> call me to much writinge this eveninge. Otherwise I would have returned a larger answeare to thy sweet lettre. I prayse God we are all in health, & we goe on cheerfully in o<sup>r</sup> businesse: I purpose (if God will) to be with thee upon Thursdaye come se<sup>n</sup>ight, & then I must take my Farewell of thee, for a Sum̄ers daye & a winters daye. The Lorde o<sup>r</sup> good God will (I hope) sende us a happye meetinge againe in his good tyme: Amen.

Cōmende me kindly to my good sister F: I would have written to her, but I cañot, havinge 6: Lettres to write. I wrote to M<sup>r</sup> P. Tell my sister that her mother is brought in bedd & the child dead, & she in great danger. Among other things let the brassen quart in the Larder howse be putt up; & my gray cloake & the coate w<sup>ch</sup> was my brother Fones: & let this warrant inclosed be sent to Colchester to M<sup>r</sup> Sam<sup>ll</sup> Borrowes by the next tyme the carte goes. The Lord blesse thee my sweet wife w<sup>th</sup> all o<sup>r</sup> children: my brother & sister salute you all: my sonnes remember their love & dutye: cōmend my love to all, farewell.

Thy faithfull husband,

JO: WINTHROP.

Lett M<sup>r</sup> Dudleyes thinges be sent up next week.

FEB: 5. 1629 [1630].

Remember to putt me up some Cardons & Card<sup>ns</sup> seed.

Being now ready to send away my Lettres, I received thine;<sup>1</sup> the readinge of it *has dissolved* my head into tears. I can write no more. If I live I *will see thee* ere I goe. I shall parte from thee with sorrowe enough; be comfortable my most sweet wife. O' God wilbe w<sup>th</sup> thee. Farewell.

<sup>1</sup> The next preceding.

## XL.

(1630.)

MARGARET WINTHROP TO HER HUSBAND.

MY DEARE HUSBAND, — I received thy sweet letter, and doe blesse God for all his mercyes to us, in the continuance of thy health and welfayre, and the rest of us heere. I am glad to heere you wil come home this weike, for I desire to enioy thy sweete presence as ofte as I can, before that longe partinge come w<sup>ch</sup> I desyre the Lord to fit us for, and give me fayth and pacience to submite unto his will in all thinges w<sup>ch</sup> he requires at my hands. I trust he wil sanctify it to me and give me a right use of it, that I may theareby learn the more to depend upon him; when other comforters fayle me, I hope, he will supply by the comfort of his holy spirit in the assurance of his love in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. I see thy love to me and mine, my good Husband, is more

than I can deserve, and thou art more willing to grant than I forward to desyre: the good Lord requit thee all thy kindnesse to me, but I will say no more of this till you come home. I beseech the Lord to send us a comforttable meetinge, and thus with my best love to thy selfe, my brother and sister Downinge, & all the rest of our frends, I desyre the Lord to send thee a good end of al thy troubles and inable thee to goe through them cherefully, as I trust he will not fayle thee, into whose hands I commit thee and rest

thy faithful and obedyent wife

MARGARET WINTHROPE.

## XLI.

## GOVERNOR WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

MY SWEET WIFE, — The opportunitye of so fitt a messinger, & my deepe engagement of Affection to thee, makes me write at this tyme though I hope to followe soone after. The Lorde o<sup>r</sup> God hath ofte brought us together w<sup>th</sup> comfort when we have been longe absent, & if it be good for us, he will doe so still. When I was in Irelande he brought us together againe. When I was sicke heer at London, he restored us together againe. How many dangers neere death hast thou been in thy selfe & yet the Lorde hath granted me to injoye thee still. If he did not watch over us, we need not goe over sea to seeke death or miserye; we should meet it at every steppe in everye jo<sup>r</sup>nye: & is not he a God abroad as well as at home? Is not his power & providence the same in N: E: that it hath been in old E. If o<sup>r</sup>



wayes please him he can comānde deliverance & safetye in all places & can make the stones of the field, & the beasts, yea, the raginge seas & o<sup>r</sup> verye enemies to be in leage w<sup>th</sup> us. But if we sinn ag<sup>t</sup> him, he can rayse up evill ag<sup>t</sup> vs out of o<sup>r</sup> owne bowells, howses, estate, &c. Job: 5.

My good wife; trust in the Lorde, whom thou has found faithfull. He wilbe better to thee then any husband: & will restore thee thy husband w<sup>th</sup> advantage. But I must ende, w<sup>th</sup> all o<sup>r</sup> salut. w<sup>th</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> I have laden this bearer, that he may be the more kindly well-come. so I kisse my sweet wife & blesse thee & all o<sup>rs</sup> & rest. Thyne ever.

JO: WINTHROP

FEB: 14: 1629:

Thou must be my valentine f<sup>r</sup> none hath challenged me.

## XLII.

## GOVERNOR WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

[The Governor has been home to Groton to say farewell, and is now back in London completing his preparations to sail for New England.]

LONDON March 2, 1629 [1630].

MINE OWNE DEARE HEART, — I must confesse thou hast overcome me w<sup>th</sup> thy exceeding great Love, & those abundant expressions of it in thy sweet Lrēs, w<sup>ch</sup> savour of more then an ordinary spirit of Love & pietye. Blessed be the Lord o<sup>r</sup> God that gives strength & comfort to thee to undergoe this great tryall, w<sup>ch</sup> I must confesse, would be too heavye for thee if the Lord did not put under his hande in so gracious a measure. Let this experience of his faithfullnesse to thee in this first tryall, be a grounde to establish thy heart to beleeve & expect his help in all that maye followe. It greiveth me much, that I want tyme & freedome of minde to discourse w<sup>th</sup> thee (my faithfull yoak

fellowe) in those things w<sup>ch</sup> thy sweet Lrēs offer me so plentifull occasiō for. I beseech the Lorde I may have Libtye to supplie it, ere I departe, for I cañot thus leave thee. Our 2: boyes & Ja: Dowinge, Jo: Samford & Mary M: & most of my servants are gone this daye towards S: Hampton. The good Lord be w<sup>th</sup> them & us all. Goodman Hawes was w<sup>th</sup> me, & verye kindly offerrs to bringe his wife to Groton about the beginninge of Aprill & so staye till thy selfe & my daughter<sup>1</sup> be in bedde; so as thou shalt not need take care for a midwife.

Ah, my most kinde & deare wife, how sweet is thy love to me. The Lorde blesse thee & thine, w<sup>th</sup> the blessinges from above: & from beneath, of the right hande & the left, w<sup>th</sup> plentye of favour & peace heere & eternall glorye heerafter: All heer are in health (I prayse God) & salute thee: remēber my love & blessg̃ to oʀ children & my salut<sup>s</sup> to all as thou knowest. So I kisse & embrace thee & rest thyne ever.

Jo: WINTHROP.

<sup>1</sup> Henry's wife.

## XLIII.

GOVERNOR WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

*To my verye loving Wife Mrs. Winthrop the  
elder at Groton, Suffolk.*

LONDON March 10: 1629 [1630].

MINE OWNE, MINE ONELY, MY BEST BE-  
LOVED, — Methinkes it is verye longe since I  
sawe or heard from my beloved, & I misse  
allreadye the sweet comfort of thy most de-  
sired presence: but the rich mercye & good-  
nesse of my God makes supplye of all wants:  
Blessed be his great & holy name. Ah my  
good wife, we now finde what blessinge is  
stored up in the favour of the Lorde; he  
only sweetens all conditions to us, he takes  
our cares & feares from us, he supports us in  
our dangers, he disposeth all our affaires for  
us, he will guide us by his counsell in our  
pilgrimage, & after will bringe us to glorye.

John is returned from S: Hampton, where  
he lefte our boyes well & merrye: & this morn-

inge we are ridinge thither, & from thence I shall take my last farewell of thee till we meet in new E: or till midsomer that it please God our shippes returne. My deare wife be of good courage, it shall goe well with thee & us, the hairs of thy head are numbred, he who gave his onely beloved to dye for thee, will give his Angells charge over thee: therefore rayse up thy thoughts, & be merrye in the Lorde, labour to live by thy Faith; if thou meet with troubles or difficultyes, be not dismayed; God doth use to bringe his children into the streights of the redd sea &c, that he may shew his power & mercye in makinge a waye for them: All his courses towards us, are but to make us knowe him & love him; the more thy heart drawes towards him in this, the freer shall thy condition be from the evill of Affliction.

Our friends heer are all in health (blessed be God) & desire to be hearty comēded to thee. I am exceedingly beholdinge to my good brother & sister D, I can fasten no recompence upon them for all the chardge

my selfe & my company have putt them to. I have received much kindnesse also from my Lady Mildmay<sup>1</sup> & from others, whereof some have been meer strangers to me, the Lord reward them: It doth much incourage us to see, how the eyes & hearts of all good people are upon us, breathinge many sweet prayers & blessings after us. Comēde my hearty love to all our friends, I cannot now name them, but thou knowest whom I meane. Nowe I beseech the Lord & father of mercye to blesse thee & all thy companye, my daughter W: Ma: Mat: Sam: Deane, & the little one unknowne, Tho: Am:<sup>2</sup> & the rest: Tell Am: I am very much beholdinge to her brother, desire her to give him thanks for me: tell my n: Culproke<sup>3</sup> I am beholdinge to his sonne in lawe for oysters he sent me, but could not see him to give him thankes. My deare wife farewell, once againe let us kisse & imbrace, so in teares of great Affection I rest

Thine ever

JO: WINTHROP.

<sup>1</sup> A kinswoman.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas and Amy, servants.

<sup>3</sup> *Neighbor* Culproke, no doubt.

XLIV.

GOVERNOR WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

[The Governor has repaired to Southampton, whence his colony, except a shipload each from Plymouth and from Bristol, is to sail.]

MYNE ONELY BEST BELOVED, — I now salute thee from S: Hampton, where by the Lords mercye, we are all safe; but the windes have been such as o<sup>r</sup> shippes are not yet come. We waite upon God, hopinge that he will dispose all for the best unto us. I supposed I should have founde leysure to have written more fully to thee by this bearer, but heer I meet w<sup>th</sup> so much company & businesse as I am forced to borrowe of my sleep for this. I purpose, to redeeme this losse before I goe hence, & to write to diverse of my friends. I must intreate thee to supply this defect by remembringe me in the kindest ma<sup>ñ</sup>er to them all. And now (my deare wife) what shall I say to thee? I am full of matter &

Affection towards thee, but want tyme to  
expresse it. I beseech the good Lord to take  
care of thee & thine; to seale up his lov-  
ing kindnesse to thy soule; to fill thee wi<sup>th</sup>  
the sweet comfort of his presence that may  
upholde thee in this tyme of tryall, & grant  
us this mercye, that we may see the faces of  
each other againe in the tyme expected. So  
lovinge thee truely, & tender of thy wellfare,  
studyenge to bestowe thee safe, where I may  
have thee againe I leave thee in the Armes  
of the Lo: Jes: o' sweet Savio', & w<sup>th</sup> many  
kisses & embracings, I rest

Thyne onely & ever thine

JO: WINTHROP

S. HAMPTON March 14. 1629 [1630]:

The good Lord blesse o' children & all  
thy company. Doe thou blesse these heer,  
& pray, praye for us.



XLV.

GOVERNOR WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

[The emigrant fleet is detained by adverse winds, at Cowes, Isle of Wight, and will continue to be, there and at Yarmouth, for nearly a fortnight, to the enrichment of this correspondence.]

MY DEARE WIFE, — I wrote to thee when I wente from S. Hampton & now I must salute thee & take leave together from the shipp. God be blessed the winde is come very faire & we are all in health. O<sup>r</sup> children<sup>1</sup> remember their dutyes & desire thy blessing. Comende me to all o<sup>r</sup> good friends as I wrote in my former Lrē & be comfortable & trust in the Lord. My deare wife, praye, praye. He is o<sup>r</sup> God & father; we are in covenant w<sup>th</sup> him & he will not cast us off. So this once more I kisse & embrace thee, & all my children, etc., etc.

Thy faithfull husband

JO: WINTHROP

From aboard the Arbella ridinge at the Cowes.

March 22. 1629 [1630].

<sup>1</sup> His sons, Henry, Stephen, and Adam.

## XLVI.

## GOVERNOR WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

[The remaining letter of the three which the loss of the original — though in this instance a fragment survives in facsimile — makes it necessary to present in modern dress.]

*To Mrs. Marg. Winthrop, the elder, at Groton.*

MY FAITHFUL AND DEAR WIFE, — It pleaseth God, that thou shouldst once again hear from me before our departure, and I hope this shall come safe to thy hands. I know it will be a great refreshing to thee. And blessed be his mercy, that I can write thee so good news, that we are all in very good health, and, having tried our ship's entertainment now more than a week, we find it agree very well with us. Our boys are well and cheerful, and have no mind of home. They lie both with me, and sleep as soundly in a rug (for we use no sheets here) as ever they did at Groton; and so I do myself, (I praise God). The wind hath been against us this

week and more; but this day it is come fair to the north, so as we are preparing (by God's assistance) to set sail in the morning. We have only four ships ready, and some two or three Hollanders go along with us. The rest of our fleet (being seven ships) will not be ready this sennight. We have spent now two Sabbaths on shipboard very comfortably, (God be praised,) and are daily more and more encouraged to look for the Lord's presence to go along with us. Henry Kingsbury hath a child or two in the Talbot sick of the measles, but like to do well. One of my men had them at Hampton, but he was soon well again. We are, in all our eleven ships, about seven hundred persons, passengers, and two hundred and forty cōws, and about sixty horses. The ship, which went from Plimouth, carried about one hundred and forty persons, and the ship, which goes from Bristowe, carrieth about eighty persons. And now (my sweet soul) I must once again take my last farewell of thee in Old England. It goeth very near to my

heart to leave thee ; but I know to whom I have committed thee, even to him who loves thee much better than any husband can, who hath taken account of the hairs of thy head, and puts all thy tears in his bottle, who can, and (if it be for his glory) will bring us together again with peace and comfort. Oh, how it refresheth my heart, to think, that I shall yet again see thy sweet face in the land of the living! — that lovely countenance, that I have so much delighted in, and beheld with so great content ! I have hitherto been so taken up with business, as I could seldom look back to my former happiness ; but now, when I shall be at some leisure, I shall not avoid the remembrance of thee, nor the grief for thy absence. Thou hast thy share with me, but I hope the course we have agreed upon will be some ease to us both. Mondays and Fridays, at five of the clock at night, we shall meet in spirit till we meet in person. Yet, if all these hopes should fail, blessed be our God, that we are assured we shall meet one day, if not as husband and wife, yet in a

better condition. Let that stay and comfort thy heart. Neither can the sea drown thy husband, nor enemies destroy, nor any adversity deprive thee of thy husband or children. Therefore I will only take thee now and my sweet children in mine arms, and kiss and embrace you all, and so leave you with my God. Farewell, farewell. I bless you all in the name of the Lord Jesus. I salute my daughter Winth. Matt. Nan. and the rest, and all my good neighbors and friends. Pray all for us. Farewell. Commend my blessing to my son John. I cannot now write to him; but tell him I have committed thee and thine to him. Labor to draw him yet nearer to God, and he will be the surer staff of comfort to thee. I cannot name the rest of my good friends, but thou canst supply it. I wrote, a week since, to thee and Mr. Leigh, and divers others.

Thine wheresoever,

JO. WINTHROP.

From aboard the *ARBELLA*, riding at the *COWES*,  
March 28, 1630.

I would have written to my brother and sister Gostling, but it is near midnight. Let this excuse ; and commend my love to them and all theirs.

XLVII.

GOVERNOR WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

*To my verye loving wife Mrs Winthrop the Elder  
at Groton in Suffolk.*

MY LOVE, MY JOY, MY FAITHFULL ONE,—  
I suppose thou didest not expecte to have  
any more Lrēs from me till the returne of o'  
shippes; but so is the good pleasure of God,  
that the windes should not serve yet to carrye  
us hence. He will doe all thinges in his own  
tyme & that shalbe for the best in the ende.  
We acknowledge it a great mercye to us,  
that we went not out to sea on mondaye  
when the winde was fair for one daye, for  
we had been exposed ever since to sore tem-  
pestes & contrarye windes: I prayse God,  
we are all in good health, & want nothinge.  
For my selfe I was never at more liberty of  
bodye & minde these many yeaes. The Lord  
make me thankfull & wise to improve his  
blessinges for the furtherance of his owne

worke. I desire to resigne my selfe wholly to his gracious disposinge. O, that I had an heart so to doe, & to trust perfectly in him, for his assistance in all o<sup>r</sup> wayes. We finde him still goeing alonge w<sup>th</sup> us. He hath brought in the heart of the master of o<sup>r</sup> shippe to afforde us all good respect, & to joyne w<sup>th</sup> us in everye good action. Yesterday he caused his seamen to keepe a fast with us, wherein the Lorde assisted us & o<sup>r</sup> minister very comfortably; & when 5: of the clocke came, I had respitt to remember thee, (it being fry-daye) & to parlye w<sup>th</sup> thee, & to meet thee in spiritt before the Lord. After supper we discovered some notorious lewd psons of o<sup>r</sup> owne company, who in tyme of o<sup>r</sup> fast had comitted thefte, & done other vilanies, for w<sup>ch</sup> we have caused them to be severely punished.

I am uncertaine whither I shall have opportunitye to sende these to thee; for, if the winde turne we shall soone be gone. Therefore I will not write much. I knowe it wilbe sufficient for thy present comfort to



heare of o<sup>r</sup> wellfare; & this is the third l<sup>r</sup>e I have written to thee since I came to Hampton, in requitall of those 2: I received from thee, w<sup>ch</sup> I doe often read w<sup>th</sup> much delight, apprehen<sup>d</sup>g so much love & sweet Affection in them, as I am never satisfied w<sup>th</sup> readinge, nor can reade them w<sup>th</sup> out teares; but whither they proceed from joy sorrowe or desire, or from that consent of Affection w<sup>ch</sup> I allwayes holde w<sup>th</sup> thee, I cañot conceive. Ah, my deare heart, I ever holde thee in high esteeme as thy Love & goodnesse hath well deserved; but (if it be possible) I shall yet prize thy vertue at a greater rate, & longe more to enjoye thy sweet society then ever before. I am sure thou art not shorte of me in this desire. Let us pray harde & pray in faith, & o<sup>r</sup> God, in his good tyme will accomplish o<sup>r</sup> desire. O, how loth am I to bedd thee farewell, but since it must be, farewell, my sweet Love, farewell. Farewell my deare children & familye. The Lord blesse you all, & grant me to see y<sup>r</sup> faces once againe. Come (my deare) take him & let

him rest in thine armes, who will ever  
remaine

Thy faithfull husband

JO: WINTHROP

From aboard the Arbella ryding before  
Yarmouth in the Isle of Wight.

APRILL 3. 1630.

XLVIII.

GOVERNOR WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

[The first letter from New England. The "many sadd and discomfortable thinges" of which it speaks are insufficient lodging, and shortness of provision due to the failure, through a general and fearfully mortal sickness, of the advance guard of the colony at Salem to prepare for its coming; whereby it was immediately in distress, and forced to "plant dispersedly," the Governor joining himself to the company that settled at Charlestown. To his affliction from this cause was added the private grief of the loss of his son Henry by drowning the day after his landing.]

*To my verye lounge wife M<sup>rs</sup> Winthrop the elder  
at Groton in Suff neere Sudbury.*

CHARLETON IN N: ENGLAND. July 16. 1630.

MY DEARE WIFE, — Blessed be the Lord  
o<sup>r</sup> good God & mercifull father, that yet hath  
preserved me in life & health to salute thee,  
& to comferte thy longe longinge heart, w<sup>th</sup>  
the joyfull newes of my wellfare, & the well-  
fare of thy beloved children.

We had a longe & troublesome passage,

but the Lord made it safe & easye to us: & though we have mett w<sup>th</sup> many & great troubles (as this bearer<sup>1</sup> can certifie thee) yet he hath pleased to uphold us, & to give us hope of a happye issue.

I am so overpressed w<sup>th</sup> businesse, as I have no tyme for these or other mine owne private occasions. I onely write now, that thou mayest knowe that yet I live & am mindfull of thee, in all my affairs. The larger discourse of all thinges thou shalt receive from my brother Dowinge, w<sup>ch</sup> I must sende by some of the last shippes. We have mett w<sup>th</sup> many sadd & discomfutable thinges, as thou shalt heare after: & the Lords hande hath been heavy upon my selfe in some verye neare to me: My sonne Henry, my sonne Henrye, ah, poore childe! Yet it greives me much more for my deare daughter.<sup>2</sup> The Lord strengthen & comfort her heart, to beare this crosse patiently. I knowe thou

<sup>1</sup> Margaret's brother, Arthur Tyndal, retreating home. See next letter.

<sup>2</sup> Henry's wife.

wilt not be wanting to her in this distresse: yet for all these thinges (I prayse my God) I am not discouraged, nor doe I see cause to repent, or dispaire of those good dayes here, w<sup>ch</sup> will make amends for all.

I shall expect thee next so<sup>m</sup>er (if the Lord please) & by that tyme I hope to be provided for thy comfortable entertainment. My most sweet wife, be not disheartened; trust in the Lord, & thou shalt see his faithfullnesse.

Commende me heartyly to all o<sup>r</sup> kinde friends, at Castleins, Groton hall, M<sup>r</sup> Leigh & his wife. my neighb<sup>r</sup> Cole & all the rest of my neighb<sup>rs</sup> & their wives, both rich & poore.

Remember me to them at Assington hall & Codenham hall, M<sup>r</sup> Brande M<sup>r</sup> Alston M<sup>r</sup> Mott & their wives, Good<sup>m</sup> Ponde, Charles Neale &c etc. The good Lord be w<sup>th</sup> thee & blesse thee & all o<sup>r</sup> children & servants.

Comend my Love to them all, I kisse & embrace thee, my deare wife, & all my children, & leave thee in his armes who is

able to preserve you all, & to fulfill o'r joye  
in o'r happye meeting in his good tyme.  
Amen.

Thy faithfull husband

JO: WINTHROP

I shall write to my sonne John by  
London.

XLIX.

GOVERNOR WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

MY DEARE WIFE, — I wrote to thee by my brother Arthur, but I durst write no more; then I need not care though it miscarried, for I found him the olde man<sup>1</sup> still; yet I would have kept him to ease my brother, but that his owne desire to returne, & the scarcyete of provisions heer, yielded the stronger reason to let him goe. Now (my good wife) let us ioyn in praysinge o' mercifull God, that (howsoever he hath afflicted us, both generally & particularly mine owne family in his stroke upon my sonne Henry) yet myselfe & the rest of o' children & familye are safe & in health, & that he upholds o' hearts that we fainte not in all o' troubles, but can yet waite for a good issue. And howsoever our fare be but coarse in respect of what we formerly had, (pease,

<sup>1</sup> Evidently not a compliment.

puddings & fish, beinge o<sup>r</sup> ordinary diet,) yet he makes it sweet & wholesome to us, that I may truely say I desire no better: Besides in this, that he beginnes w<sup>th</sup> us thus in affliction, it is the greater argument to us of his love, & of the goodnesse of the worke w<sup>ch</sup> we are about; for Sathan bends his forces against us, & stirres up his instruments to all kinde of mischief, so that I thinke heere are some persons who never shewed so much wickednesse in England as they have doone heer. Therefore be not discouraged (my deare Wife) by anythinge thou shalt heare from hence, for I see no cause to repente of o<sup>r</sup> com̄ing hether, & thou seest (by o<sup>r</sup> experience) that God can bringe safe hether even the tenderest women & the youngest children (as he did many in diverse shippes, though the voyage were more teadious than formerly hath been knowne in this season.) Be sure to be warme clothed, & to have store of fresh provisions, meale, eggs putt up in salt or grounde mault, butter, ote meale, pease, & fruits, & a large stronge chest or 2: well locked, to



keepe these provisions in ; & be sure they be bestowed in the shippe where they may be readily come by, (w<sup>th</sup> the boatswaine will see to & the quartermasters, if they be rewarded beforehande,) but for these thinges my sonne will take care, Be sure to have ready at sea 2 : or 3 : skillets of severall syzes, a large fryinge panne, a small stewinge panne, & a case to boyle a pudding in ; store of linnen for use at sea, & sacke to bestowe among the saylers : some drinkinge vessells, & peuter & other vessells : & for phisick you shall need no other but a pound of Doctor Wright's *Electuariū lenitivū*, & his direction to use it, a gallon of scirvy grasse to drinke a litle 5 : or 6 : morninges together, w<sup>th</sup> some saltpeter dissolved in it, & a little grated or sliced nutmege.

Thou must be sure to bringe no more companie than so many as shall have full provisiō for a yeare & halfe, for though the earth heere be very fertile yet there must be tyme & meanes to rayse it ; if we have corne enough we may live plentifully. Yet all

these are but the meanes w<sup>th</sup> God hath ordayned to doe us good by: o<sup>r</sup> eyes must be towards him, who as he can w<sup>th</sup>ould blessings from the strongest meanes, so he can give sufficient vertue to the weakest. I am so streightened w<sup>th</sup> much businesse, as can no waye satisfie myselfe in wrightinge to thee. The Lorde will in due tyme lett us see the faces of each other againe to o<sup>r</sup> great comforte: Now the Lord in mercye blesse, guide & supporte thee: I kisse & embrace thee my deare wife. I kisse & blesse you all my deare children, Forth, Mary, Deane, Sam, & the other: the Lorde keepe you all & worke his true feare in yo<sup>r</sup> hearts. The blessing of the Lorde be upon all my servants, whom salute from me, Jo: Samford, Amy &c, Goldston, Pease, Chote &c: my good freinds at Castlins & all my good neighbo<sup>rs</sup>, goodman Cole & his good wife, & all the rest:

Remember to come well furnished w<sup>th</sup> linnen, woollen, some more beddinge, brasse, peuter, leather bottells, drinkinge hornes &c:

let my sonne provide 12: axes of severall sorts of the Braintree Smithe, or some other prime workman, whatever they coste, & some Augers great & smale, & many other necessaryes w<sup>ch</sup> I cant now thinke of, as candles, sope, & store of beife suett, &c: once againe farewell my deare wife.

Thy faithfull husband

JO: WINTHROP.

CHARLTON IN N: ENGLAND July 23: 1630.

## L.

## GOVERNOR WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

[At the writing of this letter the shadow of the Colony's dark day is deepening. Hunger and disease are fast thinning its ranks. The Lady Arbella Johnson, daughter of the Earl of Lincoln, the gentlewoman of the emigration, is dead; the beloved Francis Higginson, also, and many another whose loss is the saddest bereavement. These circumstances are a sufficient comment on the spirit the Governor reveals.]

MY DEARE WIFE, — The blessinge of God allsufficient be upon thee & all my deare ones w<sup>th</sup> thee for ever.

I prayse the Good Lord, though we see much mortalitye sicknesse & trouble, yet (such is his mercye) my selfe & children, w<sup>th</sup> most of my family are yet livinge & in health & enjoye prosperity enough, if the Affliction of o<sup>r</sup> brethren did not hold under the comfort of it. The Lady Arbella is

dead, & good M<sup>r</sup> Higginson, my servant old Waters of Neyland & many others. Thus the Lord is pleased still to humble us, yet he mixes so many mercyes w<sup>th</sup> his corrections, as we are perswaded he will not cast us off, but in his due tyme will doe us good, accordinge to the measure of o<sup>r</sup> Afflictions. He stayes but till he hath purged o<sup>r</sup> corruptions, & healed the hardnesse & error of o<sup>r</sup> hearts, & stripped us of o<sup>r</sup> vaine confidence in this arme of flesh, that he may have us relye wholly upon himselfe. The French shippe<sup>1</sup> so longe expected, & given up for lost, is now come safe to us, about a fortnight since, havinge been 12 : weekes at sea, & yet her passengers (beinge but fewe) all safe & well, but one : & her goats, but 6 : livinge of 18 : so as now we are somewhat refreshed w<sup>th</sup> such goods & provisions as she brought, though much thereof hath received damage by wett.

<sup>1</sup> Of this ship nothing is known beyond what is here told, except that the Governor's journal says she was called "The Gift."

I prayse God, we have many occasions of comfort heer, & doe hope, that o<sup>r</sup> dayes of Affliction will soone have an ende, & that the Lord will doe us more good in the ende, then we could have expected, that will abundantly recompense for all the trouble we have endured. Yet we may not looke at great thinges heer. It is enough that we shall have heaven though we should passe through hell to it. We heer enjoye God & Jesus Christ. Is not this enough? What would we have more? I thanke God, I like so well to be heer, as I do not repent my cominge: & if I were to come againe I would not have altered my course, though I had foreseen all these Afflictions: I never fared better in my life, never slept better, never had more content of minde, w<sup>ch</sup> comes meerly of the Lord's good hande, for we have not the like meanes of these comforts heer w<sup>ch</sup> we had in England. But the Lord is all sufficient, blessed be his holy name. If he please, he can still upholde us in this estate; but if he shall

see good to make us partakers w<sup>th</sup> others in more Affliction, his will be done. He is o<sup>r</sup> God, & may dispose of us as he sees good.

I am sorrye to parte w<sup>th</sup> thee so soone, seeing we meet so seldome & my much businesse hath made me too ofte forgett mundayes & frydayes.<sup>1</sup> I longe for the tyme, when I may see thy sweet face againe & the faces of my deare children. But I must breake off. & desire thee to comēde me kindly to all my good friends & excuse my not writinge at this tyme. If God please once to settle me I shall make amends. I will name nowe but such as are nearest to thee, my broth : & sister Gostlin : m<sup>r</sup> Leigh, etc., Castleins, my neigh : Cole & his good wife, w<sup>th</sup> the rest of my goode neighbors tenants & servants. The good Lord blesse thee, & all o<sup>r</sup> children & famyle. so I kisse my sweet wife & my deare children & rest thy faithfull husband

JO. WINTHROP

<sup>1</sup> See letter xlvi.

I would have written to Mapleston if I had tyme. Thou must excuse me & remember me kindly to them all.

This is the 3<sup>1</sup> lre I have written to thee from n. england.

SEPT. 9. 1630

<sup>1</sup> The second, alas, we have not.



LI.

GOVERNOR WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

[Since his last letter the Governor and those with him at Charlestown, in hope of bettering their condition, have crossed Charles River to the Shawmut peninsula, and have named the spot on which they are there erecting their winter quarters, "Boston."]

*To Mar : Win : the Elder at Groton.*

MY SWEET WIFE, — The blessinge of the Almighty be upon thee & thine for ever.

There is a shipp arrived at Plimouth, some 30 : miles from us, w<sup>ch</sup> came from London the 10<sup>th</sup> of August, & was 12 weekes at sea in such tempests as she spent all her mastes ; yet of 60 : passingers she lost but one. All the rest (through the Lords great mercy) are safe & in health. Edy of Boxted, who came in her tould me a fortnight since that he had many L<sup>r</sup>es in the shippe for me, but I heer not yet of them, w<sup>ch</sup> makes me now (havinge oppor-

tunity to send to Plimouth) to write these few lines to thee, least the shippe should be gone before I have received my L<sup>r</sup>s, & can returne answeare to them. Thou shalt understand by this how it is w<sup>th</sup> us since I wrote last (for this the 3: or 4<sup>th</sup> L<sup>r</sup>e I have written to thee since I came hether) that thou maiest see the goodnesse of the Lord towarde me, that, when so many have dyed, & many yet languish, my selfe & my children are yet livinge & in health. Yet I have lost 12: of my family. viz. Walters & his wife & 2: of his children: m<sup>r</sup> Gager & his man: Smith of Buxall & his wife & 2: children: the wife of Taylor of Haverill & their childr: my sonne H: makes the 12.

& one of L.  
Kedby his  
sonnes

And, — besides many other of lesse note as Jeff: Ruggle of Sudbury & divers others of that towne (about 20:) the Lord hath stripped us of some principale persons: M<sup>r</sup> Johnson & his Lady, M<sup>r</sup> Rossiter, M<sup>rs</sup> Philips & others unknowne to thee. We conceive that this disease grew from ill diet at sea, & proved infectious. I write not this to dis-

courage thee, but to warne thee & others to provide well for the sea & by Gods helpe the passage wilbe safe & easy how longe so ever. Be carefull (I intreate thee) to observe the directions in my former L<sup>r</sup>es, & I trust that that God, who hath so graciously preserved & blessed us hetherto, will bringe us to see the faces of each other w<sup>th</sup> abundance of joye. My deare wife, we are heer in a paradise.<sup>1</sup> Though we have not beef & mutton etc., yet (God be prayed) we want them not; o<sup>r</sup> Indian Corne answers for all. Yet heer is fowle & fish in great plenty. I will heer breake off, because I hope to receive L<sup>r</sup>es, from thee soone, & to have opportunity of writinge more Largly, I will say nothings of my Love to thee, & of my Longinge desires towards thee, Thou knowest my heart. Neither can I mention salutations to my good friends, other than in gen<sup>l</sup>. In my next I hope to supply all. Now the Lord o<sup>r</sup> good God, be w<sup>th</sup> thee & all my children, & company w<sup>th</sup> thee. Grace

<sup>1</sup> A potential paradise, surely.

& peace be w<sup>th</sup> you all. So I kisse my  
sweet wife, & all my deare children, & blesse  
you in the Lord. Farewell.

Thy faithfull husband

JO: WINTHROP

BOSTON IN MATTACHUSETTS

Nov: 29. 1630

Thou must excuse my not writing to my  
sonne Jo: & other of my friends at this  
tyme, for I deferre it till I receive my L<sup>r</sup>es.

LII.

GOVERNOR WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

[The doleful winter, the sufferings of which had been only in a measure relieved by the arrival of a ship load of supplies in February, is now past, and the Governor cheers his heart with the gladdest anticipations.]

MY DEARE WIFE, — I have small hope that this should come to thy hands, in regard of the longe staye of the shippe heer, so as thou maiest be well onward of thy waye hether before these can come to England. Therefore I write little to thy selfe & my sonne & those whom I expect to see heer shortly, if it shall so please the Lorde. And blessed be his holy & glorious name that he hath so far magnified his mercy towards us, that when so many have been layd in their graves since we parted, yet he hath pleased to preserve us unto this hope of a joyfull meetinge, that we may see the faces

of each other againe, the faces of o<sup>r</sup> children & sweet babes. These thinges I durst scarce thinke off heertofores, but now I embrace them ofte & delight my heart in them, because I trust, that the Lord o<sup>r</sup> God, who hath kept me & so many of my Company in health & safety amonge so many dead corps, through the heat of the sūmer & the cold of winter & hath also preserved thee in the perill of childbirth, & upheld thy heart in the midst of so many discouragements, w<sup>th</sup> the life of all thy companye, will of his owne goodnesse & free mercye preserve us & ours still that we shall meet in joye & peace, w<sup>ch</sup> I dayly pray for, & shall expect in the Lords good tyme: who still continue his favour & blessinge upon thee & o<sup>r</sup> sweet babes & all thy company. For o<sup>r</sup> little daughter, doe as thou thinkest best, the Lord direct thee in it. If thou bringest her,<sup>1</sup> she wilbe more trouble to thee in the shipp then all the rest. I knowe my sister wilbe tender

<sup>1</sup> Margaret would not leave her babe behind, but it died and was buried at sea on the way over.

of her till I may send for her. Bring Amy & Anne Goslin w<sup>th</sup> thee if thou canst. If they come not, they will much wronge themselves. They need feare no want heer, if they wilbe guided by Gods word: otherwise they can looke to prosper no where. I prayse God I want nothinge but thee & the rest of my family: Commend my Love & blessinge to them all: & to all my neighbo<sup>rs</sup> & frends, but I have desired my brother Gostlin to performe that. Remember to bringe juice of lemons to sea w<sup>th</sup> thee, for thee & thy company to eate w<sup>th</sup> yo<sup>r</sup> meate as sauce. But of these thinges my sonne hath direct'o<sup>n</sup>: so again I Kisse thee my sweet wife & commend thee & all o<sup>rs</sup> to the Lord, & rest, thine,

JO: WINTHROP

MARCH 28 1631

## LIII.

## MARGARET WINTHROP TO HER HUSBAND.

[Early in November, 1631, the Governor and Margaret were reunited in Massachusetts. Thence onward, till her death in 1647, their separations were brief. Six notes only — two of them mere greetings, unsigned and undated — are the sole relics remaining of whatever correspondence may have passed between them in those years. They are all included because they are the last, and because, even in the slightest of them, the abiding sway of the conjugal sentiment revealed in the interchanges of former periods is betokened. The first was written while Winthrop — then Deputy-Governor, but shortly to be Governor again — was absent from Boston in Newtown [Cambridge], attending the annual General Court of Elections convened there for reasons — hinted in Margaret's reference to the "troubles amonge us," and her expression, "*Sad* Boston" — growing out of the unhappy Antinomian Controversy.]

*To hir Honored husban these be delivered.*

DEARE IN MY THOUGHTS, — I blush to thinke howe much I have neglected the oportunytye of presenting my love to you. Sad thoughts posses my sperits, and I cannot



repulce them w<sup>ch</sup> makes me unfit for any thinge wondringe what the Lord meanes by all these troubles amonge us — shure I am that all shall worke to the best, to them that love God, or rather are loved of hime, I know he will bring light out of obscuritye, and make his rituusnesse shine forth, as clere as the nounge daye, yet I finde in my selfe an aferce<sup>1</sup> spiret, and a tremblinge hart not so wilinge to submit, to the will of God, as i desyre. Thear is a time to plant and a time to pul up that w<sup>ch</sup> is planted, w<sup>ch</sup> I could desyre mite not be yet, but the Lord knoweth what is best and his wilbe done, but i will rite no more, hopeinge to see thee to morrow my best affections being commended to your selfe, the rest of our frends at Nuetone, I commit thee to God.

Your lovinge wife

MARGARET W

SAD BOSTON 1637

<sup>1</sup> So reads the original, — meaning, apparently, something like “fearsome.”

## LIV.

DEPUTY-GOVERNOR WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

[Probably in response to the preceding.]

*For Mrs. Winthrop at Boston.*

DEARE [*torn*],—I am still detayned from thee, but it is by the Lord, who hath a greater interest in me than thy selfe, when his worke is donne he will restore me to thee againe to o<sup>r</sup> mutuall comfort: Amen. I thanke thee for thy sweet Lre: my heart was w<sup>th</sup> thee to have written to thee everye daye, but businesse would not permitt me. I suppose thou hearest much newes from hence: it may be, some grievous to thee: but be not troubled, I assure thee thinges goe well, & they must needs doe so, for God is w<sup>th</sup> us & thou shalt see a happy issue. I hope to be w<sup>th</sup> thee to morrowe & a frende or 2: I suppose. So I kisse my sweet wife & rest

Thine           JO: WINTHROP.

THIS 6: DAYE.

LV.

GOVERNOR WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

[From Newtown, it is likely, where the autumnal session of the General Court is drawing to a close.]

*For Mrs. Winthrop at her house in Boston.*

SWEET HEART,—I was unwillingly hinderd from com̄inge to thee, nor am I like to see thee before the last daye of this weeke: therefore I shall want a band or 2: & cuffes. I pray thee also send me 6: or 7: leaves of Tobacco dried & powdred. Have care of thy selfe this colde weather, & speak to the folkes to keepe the goates well out of the Garden; & if my brother Peter hath not fetched away the sheep ramme, let them looke him up & give him meate, the green pease in the Garden &c are good for him: If any lettres be come for me send them by this bearer. I will trouble thee no further, the Lorde blesse & keepe thee my sweet wife

& all o<sup>r</sup> familye : & send us a comfortable  
meetinge, so I kisse thee & love thee ever  
& rest

Thy faithfull husband,

JO: WINTHROP

This 6<sup>th</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup>, 1637.

LVI.

GOVERNOR WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

*For Mrs. Winthrop at Boston.*

MY SWEET WIFE, — I prayse God I am in good health, peace be to thee & o<sup>r</sup> familye, so I kisse thee, & hope shortly to see thee: farewell.

Hasten the sendinge awaye Skarlett, & gatheringe the Turnips.

LVII.

GOVERNOR WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

MY SWEET WIFE,— So fitt an occasiō  
must not passe w<sup>th</sup>out a token to thee. I  
prayse God I am well: the Lo: blesse thee  
& all o<sup>rs</sup>, so I kisse thee the second tyme,  
farewell.

LVIII.

GOVERNOR WINTHROP TO HIS WIFE.

[The Governor is on a visit of state to the most remote plantation of his colony.]

*To my Deare Wife, Mrs. Winthrop at Boston.*

MY DEARE, — I prayse God we came safe to Salem, thoughe we had very stormy windes. We found all well. I doubt I shall not returne before the 2 : daye next weeke, & then my broth : P : will come w<sup>th</sup> me. The Lo : blesse thee & all o<sup>r</sup> familye, & send us a happy meetinge. I kisse thee & rest  
thy faithfull husband,

J : W :

SALEM : 9ber : 8<sup>a</sup> 1638.

THE END.











